



THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
**JASPER BANKS,**  
COMMONLY CALL'D  
*The Handsome Man.*

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CHAP. I.

*Mr. Hart the Taylor's Behaviour — I take  
a Lodging near Covent-Garden.*

**I** Went directly to Mr. *Hart*, and en-  
quir'd after my Cloaths; which I found,  
as the Letter said I should. I had been  
a good Customer to Mr. *Hart*, for since my  
Acquaintance with *La Mour* (who recom-  
mended

mended him to me) I had laid out upwards of Fifty Pounds myself; besides several elegant Suits that she had ordered to be made after her own Fancy, and presented me with. From this I had Hopes that I could wheedle Mr. *Hart* to let me into the real Situation of *La Mour's* Circumstances, for hitherto I was a Stranger to them.

At my first Acquaintance with her, and from what *Sambert* had hinted (for he would never speak directly) I thought she was a kept Woman: But then again, when she let me live with her in her House, go with me to all Publick-places, without any Fear of being seen, I chang'd my Opinion, and look'd upon her to be, really what she appear'd, a Woman of Family and independent Fortune.

I began my Design upon Mr. *Hart*, by asking if he knew the Names of the Persons that were visiting at Mrs. *La Mour's*: Adding, That *though I had often heard them, they were then out of my Memory*—— To which he seem'd as if he did not hear me: But, upon repeating my Question, he reply'd, in a cold Manner; *Indeed, Sir, I never trouble my Head with other Peoples Affairs, I have Business enough of my own.* This Answer, and the Manner he gave it in, a little surpriz'd me; and, before I could ask him the Reason, he said; *Sir, there are your Things, in those two Trunks,*  
*that*



*that Mrs. La Mour sent, desiring I would see them safely deliver'd to you, which I have done; and I should be glad you would order them to your Lodgings directly, for they incommoded my Parlour very much.*

I told him I should be glad to let them stay there 'till the Evening, and I would then ease him of the Charge. He reply'd, — *'Tis very well*; and then, after fumbling some Time in his Pocket, said; *Here is a small Bill, Sir, which I desire you will discharge when you send for your Trunks, for I am in want of Money; and, perhaps, may not see you again for some Time.* With these Words he gave me a Bill of Eight Pounds, for a few trifling Things that I had order'd since he last brought in his Account.

This Behaviour, from a Man who had taken so much of my Money, so provok'd me, that it was with great Difficulty I kept my Patience: However, I gave him equal Mortification; for, assuming an Air of Ease, I said; *O Mr. Hart, you know your Money is always ready with me; why did you not call on me before?* So saying, I pull'd out a Bank-Note of Fifty Pounds, and desir'd Change.

I could perceive, by his Surprise, that either he suspected, or *La Mour* had told him the Obligations I had to her (though I could hardly think her capable of so ungenteel

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an Action) and this pitiful Fellow imagin'd, as I had left her House, his Hopes of future Profit from me were at an End, and therefore took this unmannerly Liberty with me, which I am sure he repented upon the Sight of my Bank-Bill.

I observ'd the Behaviour of this Man, who had hitherto been so complaisant, so full of Flattery and Commendations to my Face, while he thought me in Prosperity, greatly amaz'd me ; but if I had been as well experienc'd in the World then, as I now am, I should not have been surpriz'd at all ; for it is a certain Rule, that he who will stoop and cringe, for his Interest, below the Dignity of a Man, is at Heart a Villain ; and will stop at nothing, though ever so base and ungenerous, when that Interest ceases.

Mr. *Hart* was the first Instance of this Kind that I had then met with ; which gave me such Abhorrence of him, that, when he had given me a Receipt, I left him without any farther Ceremony, than telling him I would send for my Cloaths in the Afternoon. I went immediately in Search of a Lodging, which I resolv'd should be near *Covent-Garden*, as all my Inclinations now lay in that Quarter.

It was not long before I spy'd a Bill upon the Door of a well-looking House, in a handsome Street, not far from my Coffee-House,

House, the Seat of Pleasure and Fortune. I immediately knock'd at the Door, and was receiv'd by a very likely young Woman ; who, at my Desire, conducted me up Stairs, and shew'd me the Apartments she had to lett.

The Rooms were large, light and well furnish'd, and hit my Fancy exactly. She demanded fourteen Shillings a Week, which I made no Scruple of agreeing to ; for besides liking the Place, I saw something in the Landlady that gave me infinite Pleasure. I told her, I was but just come to Town, and had no Place to lie at but the Inn, unless she could make the Rooms ready for my Reception that Night, which she promised to see done. I then gave her Earnest, and told her my Name was *Buckler*, which indeed she enquir'd : After which I took the Liberty to ask her Name and Circumstances. She told me, her Husband was a Gentleman of small Fortune, and his Name was *Founder* ; that the House was much too large for his Family, consisting only of himself and her, a Niece, and a Maid-Servant ; and that they let Lodgings, as much for the sake of Company as Profit.

Having fix'd my Habitation, I went to the Coffee-House, wrote a Note, and sent it by a Porter to Mr. *Hart*, desiring him to deliver my Cloaths, &c. together with a Letter to *La Mour* ; acquainting her, as she had

had desir'd in her last, where she might hear of me.

This being finish'd, I sat down to Play; and won considerably; which so rais'd my Spirits, that *La Mour*, and all that had lately pass'd concerning her, went quite out of my Thoughts. Besides, I found a secret Inclination rising in me towards my new Landlady; so much, that notwithstanding the fortunate Run I was in at Play, I determin'd to break off, and go home betimes, in hopes of a little Conversation with her. And I wanted, indeed, to talk with her Husband; for, by his Temper and Behaviour, I thought I might form some Judgment, whether there were any Hopes for me: For my Vanity, which rather encreas'd than diminish'd, assur'd me, That if the Husband was not equally agreeable as my self (and that I thought impossible) his Wife's Inclinations would soon be at my Service. With these Hopes I went home, and was let in by Mr. *Founder* himself.

## C H A P. II.

*I go to my Lodgings.——My Landlord's odd Humour.——The troublesome Temper of Mrs. Sophy, his Niece.*

THE first Salutation was——O, your Servant, Sir! I was just examining my Wife about her new Lodger. You are the Gentleman, I presume——I made no Answer, but a Bow——Come, continu'd my Landlord, walk into the Parlour, and let me talk with you a little——Sit down, Sir,——My Wife told me you was a handsome young Gentleman; and, egad, I think she spoke Truth——Nay, nay, let the Women alone to judge of a Man.——They have piercing Judgment——They go to the Quick; and then we make them quick, for the Business is quickly done.—She says your Name is Buckler. You live near Shields, I suppose, ha.——Pretty well said that.——Thus he ran on, for near a Quarter of an Hour, without suffering me to speak a Word.——Seeing me, I suppose, a little confounded with his Volubility, he said; Come, Sir, sit down——Excuse me, I must talk——I mean no Harm——You'll like me better, when you know me better.

This incoherent Discourse, made up of Quibbles and Jest's without Meaning, at once convinc'd me of his Understanding:  
Though

Though I could have been contented to have heard him all Night, provided I had that agreeable Object, his Wife, to look at, for she now appear'd in all her Beauty. She was new dress'd since I last saw her, which discover'd the finest Shape I ever look'd on; and the pretty rising Blushes, her Husband's nonsensical Jests brought every now and then into her Face, gave a double Lustre to her Beauty. Thus was the Wife, young and charming; the Husband, a Man about Fifty, hagg'd and lean; and of the odd, whimsical Conversation, I have already given a Sample of. The Niece, who was at Table too, serv'd but to set off Mrs. *Founder's* Charms; for she was a little, squat, fat Creature, with a peevish Look, that seem'd to envy every Pleasure that was not her own Possession.

My Landlady's Understanding was conspicuous, from the Confusion she discover'd at her Husband's Nonsense. Besides, though she spoke but little, what she said was too significant to flow from a mean Capacity.

Thus we pass'd the Evening. About Twelve I went to Bed, and lay some Hours awake, indulging myself with pleasing Reflections on my handsome Landlady.

Early in the Morning, according to my Direction, the Maid came and lit my Fire; and, soon as I was up, Mrs. *Sophy*, the Niece, came up to enquire whether I would



go down and Breakfast with the Family, or have it into my own Chamber. I chose the latter; for I wanted to look over my Cloaths, tell my Money, and consider of some Affairs that Company would not have assisted me in. Besides, as I knew my own Inclinations towards Mrs. *Founder*, I did not care to seem too pressing into her Company, while her Husband was at home, lest I should give him some Suspicions that might put an End to all my Hopes at once.

It was not long before *Sophy* appear'd with the Tea, which I desir'd her to set down upon the Table. So she did, and plac'd herself by it, and began to fill out for me and herself. This was a Piece of Complaisance I did not desire, but I did not know how to tell her so; so was forc'd to sit down and bear her Company.

The first Dish was scarce empty'd before *Sophy* began a Conversation, that at once let me into her Character.

She began thus——“ Well, Sir, I can't help commending your Choice of breakfasting by yourself; for, really, there is no Comfort in being with a Family, Servants are such Hellcats! Why we have had at least twenty in twelve Months: And they are all alike! the Devil a Barrel the better Herring! unless one is scolding all Day, nothing is done as it ought. What a Condition would my Uncle be in, if it  
“ was

“ was not for me ! for Mrs. *Founder* never  
 “ takes the least Notice. It lies all upon  
 “ me ; she minds nothing but dressing her-  
 “ self, and sitting like a fine Lady, with her  
 “ Hands before her.—That, *said I*, may  
 “ be to please her Husband, he loves to  
 “ see her dress’d——Please him ! *reply’d*  
 “ *Sophy*, no, no, she marry’d him for In-  
 “ terest ; the Devil of any Thing else. To  
 “ be sure it was a very unequal Match.  
 “ My Uncle is too old for so fine a Lady ;  
 “ and too rich, for one of her low Circum-  
 “ stances. But her Baby-Face set the old  
 “ Fool a Fire——It was Madness to be  
 “ sure——He should have marry’d some  
 “ staid Woman of Understanding ; or I  
 “ don’t know what he had to do with a  
 “ Wife at all. I could have look’d after  
 “ his House, and a Man of his Years can  
 “ have no other Use for a Woman, I am  
 “ sure.”

Thus did Mrs. *Sophy* lay open all the De-  
 fects of the Family ; and I resolv’d to en-  
 courage her in her Slander, that I might  
 get the easier into Mrs. *Founder*’s Secrets,  
 for I did not doubt but *Sophy* was Mistress of  
 them all. I was just going to pump her,  
 when the Maid open’d the Door, to know  
 if I had any Commands ; but before I could  
 answer, *Sophy*, being willing to give me a  
 Sample of her Decorum, got up and thrust  
 the

the Girl out of the Room ; saying, *Why you brazen-fac'd Slut ! how durst you come into a Gentleman's Chamber, without knocking at the Door ? Must I be eternally telling you, and will you never learn ?*

The Maid went down, without making any direct Reply, but mutter'd something, *Better be a Galley-Slave, or to that Purpose ;* which *Sophy* hearing, ran after her, calling her all the names she could think of. At the Bottom of the Stairs Mr. *Founder* and his Wife met 'em, and the Quarrel became general. What she said I could not hear, but my Landlord, with his usual Oddity, tho' he was in a Passion, could not deliver himself without a Smile, for I heard him cry out, *Why the Devil is in the People, I think ! my House is like a Tennis-Court, never without a Racket in it !* The Fray did not end here, but was removed out of my Hearing ; for they shut themselves into the Parlour, to my no small Satisfaction.

I now sat down to tell over my Cash ; but before I had half done it, Mr. *Founder* came in, to ask me how I liked my Lodging, and to tell me he was going into the City to transfer an *East-India* Bond ; adding, he had a Hare for Dinner, and should be glad of my Company : And, upon my excusing myself, he cry'd out, *Ab, Rabbit you, you think you are Hare-*

brain'd *enough already*. With these Words he set up a great Laugh at his own Jest (as he thought it) and bid me a Good-morrow.

I was now once more alone, and again went to my Business; but, alas! before I could recollect where I left off, *Sophy* return'd, to beg Pardon for the Maid's ill Manners, and to let me know how severely she had rated her for the Affront; which she spun into a Thousand different Arguments, all tending to shew her own Skill in the Management of a Family——How Gentlemen should be treated; what Cautions Servants ought to have given them; how liable the Mistress was to answer for the Maid's Misbehaviour; and many other tedious Rules of this Sort; which so provok'd me, that I look'd at my Watch, and cry'd out, I had an Appointment with some Ladies, and had out-staid the Time. This I thought, would send her off; but I was mistaken, for it only furnish'd her with fresh Matter for Discourse. She observ'd, That Ladies would excuse little Omissions of that Sort; for they must consider, Gentlemen have Business that can't always be dispatch'd to a Moment——And so went on, about Ladies and Gentlemen——and Gentlemen and Ladies——that I lost all Patience, and e'en began to dress myself while she was in the Room; which

which she never quitted (and then would hardly do it) 'till I was going to put on my Shirt.

I huddled on my Cloaths as fast as possible, lock'd my Money up in a Drawer, and went down Stairs directly, for fear of another Visit from this impertinent Gossip.

When I was in the Entry, I found Mrs. *Founder* ready to open the Door; who, in a pretty, mild Manner, begg'd Pardon for the Noise the Maid had occasion'd: Adding, That she was a poor ignorant Creature, and hop'd I would excuse her. Her pretty Manner, and the soft Tone of her Voice, so unlike what I had been two Hours persecuted with, drew my whole Attention. I thought myself in another World; I desir'd her not to think of it any farther; that, if it had not disturb'd her, all was well. While I was speaking, I fixt my Eyes so steadfastly upon her, that I am sure she observ'd it. I saw the Colour come into her Cheeks, which she was sensible of; for she made me a hasty Courtesy and turn'd, in some Confusion, into the Parlour.

I went to the Coffee-House, with an Intent to pursue my old Sport, but found the House forsaken; and, upon asking the Waiter why the Company was not there as usual, he told me they were gone to a famous

famous Horse-Race, about twenty Miles off, where they had all particular Business. Missing my Companions, I took a poor Fellow, that us'd to attend the Place, in hopes of getting something of the Winners (and, I believe had no other Subsistence but their Bounty) to a Tavern in the City, and gave him a good Dinner. What his real Name was I never heard, but we us'd to call him *Misery*. He was near Sixty Years old, but had all his Limbs perfect, seem'd possess'd of a good Understanding, and knew Mankind perfectly well. Our Conversation turning upon a Reflection of the Misfortunes we poor Mortals are liable too, he gave me a short Sketch of his own Life, in the following Manner.

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### C H A P. III.

#### *Misery's Story.*

“ I AM, *said he*, of an antient Family in  
 “ the North. My Father was possess'd  
 “ of a genteel Estate; which, with his  
 “ Management, not only supported the  
 “ Dignity of his Family at Home, but  
 “ kept up the Reputation of Charity and  
 “ Benevolence his Ancestors had so justly  
 “ deserv'd for many Generations, by a  
 “ ge-



“ generous Distribution of their Wealth  
 “ among their poor Neighbours and De-  
 “ pendants.

“ As I was the only Child my Father  
 “ ever had, his whole Care and Study was  
 “ to bring me up in a Manner that might  
 “ do honour to his Family. I was put  
 “ under the Direction of a Tutor, who  
 “ spar’d no Pains to raise in me the Seeds  
 “ of Virtue and Knowledge; and, at the  
 “ proper Time, I was sent to the Univer-  
 “ sity, where my Father’s Indulgence,  
 “ and liberal Allowance, fully prov’d his  
 “ Fondness—And tho’ it is but an un-  
 “ grateful Return for his Kindness, I am  
 “ afraid most of my Misfortunes are owing  
 “ to that Tendernefs, that was meant for  
 “ my Preservation and Prosperity.

“ The large Remittances I so often re-  
 “ ceiv’d from my Father enabled me to  
 “ mix with Company, that only made  
 “ the University a Place of Recreation  
 “ and not of Use; and instead of being  
 “ guided by the excellent Rules set down  
 “ for the Improvement of Virtue and  
 “ Learning, seem’d to take Pleasure only  
 “ in breaking ’em. This was the Party  
 “ I join’d, and was as imprudent and de-  
 “ bauch’d as the most thoughtless of ’em;  
 “ till at length a Complaint was made to  
 “ my Father, who immediately was more  
 “ sparing

“ sparing of his Money, and sent Orders  
“ to the College that a stricter Hand should  
“ be kept over me for the future.

“ This Restraint did not at all agree  
“ with my Disposition. I abhorr’d Con-  
“ finement, and detested Study; ’till at  
“ length finding I could not have my full  
“ Swing of Pleasure as I us’d to have, I  
“ resolv’d to leave the University, not re-  
“ turn to my Father, but seek my Fortune  
“ by myself. Accordingly I took the first  
“ Opportunity of conveying away my  
“ Cloaths and Linnen, and some Part of my  
“ Books; the last I sold to raise Money  
“ for my Expedition. Being thus fur-  
“ nish’d, I set forwards towards *Wales*;  
“ where I had an Aunt that was very  
“ fond of me, and was Mistress of a pret-  
“ ty independent Fortune. Here I thought  
“ to fill my Pockets, but I was deceived;  
“ for though she gave me a kind Recep-  
“ tion, making me welcome to every  
“ Thing her House afforded, she supply’d  
“ me with no more Money than what is  
“ generally given to a School-Boy. She  
“ was very inquisitive about my Journey;  
“ how I came, whither I was going, and  
“ the like, all which I answer’d to her  
“ Satisfaction; telling her, My Father had  
“ given me Leave to make a Tour in that  
“ Part of the Country, which I had long  
“ had a great Curiosity to see; adding,  
“ That

“ That notwithstanding my Inclination, I  
“ was afraid I must be content where I was,  
“ not having brought Money enough with  
“ me to proceed on my Journey.

“ All this Conversation, though repeated every Day, had no Effect ; the old  
“ Woman was either loth to part with her  
“ Money, or else had some Suspicion of  
“ me, that prevented her doing as I expected.

“ I stay’d ten Days, considering in what  
“ Manner to proceed. All Hopes of succeeding with my Aunt expir’d ; for she  
“ seem’d more inclin’d to wish I would go  
“ back, than willing to assist me in going  
“ forward——But the eleventh Day clear’d  
“ up all, and told me at once what I was to  
“ depend upon——She call’d me to her ;  
“ and, pulling out a Letter (which I immediately knew to be my Father’s Hand)  
“ read the Contents ; which were no more  
“ than to let her know, That he was inform’d, by Letters from the College,  
“ that I was run away from it ; that all the  
“ Expence he had been at for my Education was thrown away ; that I was a profligate Wretch, and he would never consider me as his Son again.

“ This Letter the old Lady read with  
“ great Passion, and commented every  
“ Minute upon my Behaviour ; and in the  
“ End, threaten’d to send me by Force

“ back to my Father : The Apprehension  
“ of which so alarm’d me, that I pack’d up  
“ what I could, and that very Night, with  
“ only Ten Shillings in my Pocket, set forward, without any Scheme, Plan, or  
“ Design ; leaving behind me all my  
“ Cloaths and Linnen, except what I could  
“ carry in my Pockets. That Night I lay  
“ in the Fields, and the next Morning  
“ reach’d a little Town, where I regal’d  
“ myself. I stay’d there all that Day ; and,  
“ among the rest of the Discourse of the  
“ People at the Inn, I heard there was a  
“ Company of Players at a Town about  
“ eight Miles off. It immediately struck  
“ into my Head that I would go and join  
“ them ; for tho’ I had never attempted  
“ any Thing of the Kind in Publick, I had  
“ frequently borne my Part in a Scene,  
“ for private Amusement.

“ I never stopt ’till I had reach’d the  
“ Place, nor ever rested ’till I had found out  
“ the Director of the Company, who very  
“ gladly receiv’d me. I play’d several  
“ Parts with Applause ; and, having a  
“ good Memory, was look’d upon as a very  
“ great Proficient among them.

“ I never was so happy in my Life.  
“ Our Profits, tho’ not very great, were  
“ sufficient to supply my common Expences,  
“ which were not extravagant ; for acting  
“ was so agreeable to me, that instead of  
“ wishing

“ wishing for those irregular Pleasures that  
“ had ruin’d me, I would now lock myself  
“ up whole Days, and feed upon the ro-  
“ mantick Virtues of a *Roman* or *Grecian*.  
“ Hero; and *Cato* and I have often din’d  
“ together, at the moderate Ordinary of a  
“ Mutton Chop and a Pint of Ale.

“ Here I fell in Love with one of our  
“ Actresses, a pretty Girl of about Eigh-  
“ teen, and marry’d her. We liv’d very  
“ well upon our Business, and were fond  
“ to a great Degree. I had two Children  
“ by her at a Birth. My Expences being  
“ now larger than usual, I sought all Op-  
“ portunities of playing at Cards, in Hopes  
“ to get Money for my Wife and Children;  
“ but had such continu’d ill Luck, that I  
“ scarce ever sat down to Play, without  
“ being stript of every Shilling I had. I  
“ then pawn’d my own and my Wife’s  
“ Cloaths, in Hopes to recover my Loss,  
“ but in vain, for every Penny of it went  
“ the same Way. Thus stripp’d of every  
“ Necessary, we could scarce borrow Things  
“ enough to appear upon the Stage—  
“ My Love too sunk with my Circumstances  
“ —My Home was Hell to me—I  
“ could not bear my Wife’s whimpering  
“ and crying—I began to hate her, and  
“ my Children; and still to make bad  
“ worse, and give me a new Prospect of

“ Affliction, my Wife was within two  
“ Months of Lying-in again.

“ These complicated Misfortunes so pro-  
“ vok’d me, that, in Despair, I resolv’d  
“ to murder my Wife and Children, and  
“ afterwards destroy myself; and, I be-  
“ lieve, I should certainly have put this  
“ desperate Design into Execution, if an  
“ Accident had not happen’d that prevent-  
“ ed me.

“ Our Circumstances were no Secret to  
“ the People of the Town, so far from it,  
“ that it was the general Talk: In which  
“ Discourses my Character was severely  
“ handled, for I was accus’d of being the  
“ whole Cause of my Wife’s and Childrens  
“ Distress. I was look’d upon by all Kinds  
“ of People, as the most profligate, inhu-  
“ man Villain that ever was born; so much  
“ that it prevented the Assistance some  
“ good-natur’d People might otherwise have  
“ given us. They no sooner hinted their  
“ Inclination to serve us, but some Body  
“ was always ready to say; *Poo! ’tis no*  
“ *Charity to give them; the Woman won’t*  
“ *be a Farthing the better for it, for that*  
“ *Rogue her Husband will lose it all at*  
“ *Cards.*

“ Notwithstanding this general Opinion,  
“ a Lady of Fortune, that liv’d about three  
“ Miles from the Town, took Pity on my  
“ Wife’s Condition, and sent for her to her  
“ House;



“ House ; where, after enquiring into the  
“ Particulars of her Necessities, she gave  
“ her Five Guineas, with some Linnen  
“ for herself, and some proper Things for  
“ her Children ; the last of these Things  
“ were folded up in a News-Paper. My  
“ Wife brought them Home with great  
“ Joy, blessing the good Lady who had so  
“ timely reliev’d us.

“ While my Wife was preparing us a  
“ good Dinner (which we had not tasted of  
“ for some Days) I diverted myself with  
“ looking over the News-Paper the Lin-  
“ nen was wrapt in ; when, to my great  
“ Surprize, I found an Advertisement, in-  
“ timating, That if such a Person, (men-  
“ tioning my Name) would call upon a  
“ certain Attorney in the *Temple*, he might  
“ hear of something greatly to his Ad-  
“ vantage.

“ Struck with this Notice, I stood some  
“ Time astonish’d, and could not resolve  
“ what to do in the Affair. At length I  
“ resolv’d to take the Money the Lady had  
“ just given my Wife (whom I was hear-  
“ tily tir’d of ) and set out that Night for  
“ *London*. Accordingly, the first Time she  
“ went out of the Room, I took the Cash  
“ out of the Drawer ; and, lest it should  
“ not be sufficient, cram’d my Pockets  
“ with some of the Linnen, and immedi-  
“ ately set out on my Journey, leaving my  
“ Wife

“ Wife and Children to find out another  
 “ Lady to relieve ’em”.

“ Here I could not help crying out ; “ O  
 “ barbarous ! I never heard of so inhuman  
 “ an Action.”——“ Psha! reply’d *Misery*, I  
 “ was resolv’d to take Care of one. There  
 “ was nothing in it, my staying to starve  
 “ with ’em, would have done them no  
 “ Service at all : Besides, I was sick of  
 “ the Lay, and thought this a lucky Op-  
 “ portunity to get rid of it.

“ My Money brought me very decently  
 “ to *London*, where I soon found my Attor-  
 “ ney ; who, after a few cautious Enqui-  
 “ ries, told me, My Father was dead ;  
 “ that he dy’d about three Weeks ago of  
 “ an Apoplexy, and had left no Will ;  
 “ therefore the Estate of Course, which  
 “ was 1200*l.* a Year, fell to me. I thought  
 “ I should have leap’d out of my Skin  
 “ at this good News, not only that he  
 “ was dead, but that he dy’d so suddenly ;  
 “ for had he had any Notice of his End,  
 “ perhaps for my past Disobedience, he  
 “ would have play’d some Prank or other,  
 “ and left the best Part of the Fortune  
 “ from me.”

This prophane uncharitable Wretch, fixt  
 me almost into Stone with Horror ; and,  
 observing me stare at him, he went on, and  
 said, laughing, “ Come, come, Mr. *Buckler*,  
 “ it was a lucky Hit ; and, if I had a

Thouland

“Thoufand Fathers, I ſhould wiſh ’em  
“all to the ſame End.”

I had a good Mind to have kick’d the  
Scoundrel out of the Room; but Curioſity to hear the other Villanies of his  
Life, prevented my juſt Reſentment; and  
he went on thus :

“My Attorney provided a Chamber in  
“his own Houſe, and furniſh’d me with  
“every Thing ſuitable to the Fortune I was  
“Maſter of. Thus ſet out, I immediately  
“kept a Brace of Whores, and threw my  
“Money about like Dirt. I had ſeveral  
“Letters from my Wife (by what Means  
“ſhe found me out I can’t tell) full of  
“her own Diſtreſſes, and her Childrens ;  
“but as I reſolv’d nothing ſhould inter-  
“rupt my Pleaſures, I juſt read, and then  
“burnt ’em, without ſending any Answer.”

“O,” ſaid I, “how cruel that was, not  
“to aſſiſt her, when it was ſo much in  
“your Power !”——“Aye, Mr. *Buckler*,  
“but I underſtood better ; I had another  
“Scheme. I would now and then have  
“ſent her a Guinea or ſo, but then that  
“would have been owning her for my  
“Wife, which I intended to deny : For  
“beſides that I did not love her well enough  
“to let her ſhare my Fortune. I had a  
“young Lady, an Acquaintance of my  
“Lawyer’s, worth Five Thouſand Pounds;  
“that I was very fond of, and to whom

“I was

“ I was just upon the Point of marrying ;  
“ so, you know, I could not with Safety  
“ help her out.

“ I got into deep Play, and lost the  
“ best Part of my Fortune in Six Months  
“ Time. I had a cursed Run of Luck,  
“ so I e’en push’d hard at this Fortune,  
“ and marry’d her. Her Money set me up  
“ again, and I was not without Hopes of  
“ recovering what I had lost ; but I was  
“ deceiv’d, for ill Luck still pursu’d me,  
“ and my Wife’s Money seem’d inclin’d  
“ to follow my own ; and to add to my  
“ Misfortunes, my first Wife and Chil-  
“ dren came from the Country, and found  
“ me out. Distracted with the Loss of  
“ my Money, and the Arrival of this  
“ Woman, whom I mortally hated, I did  
“ not know which Way to turn me ; but  
“ I was oblig’d to be civil to her, lest she  
“ should be clamorous, and my new Wife  
“ should hear of it. Not that I car’d Two  
“ Pence for her, but her Father was rich ;  
“ and, if I could keep in with him, he  
“ might leave me handsomely at his Death.

“ I took a Room for my Wife and  
“ Children, at a distant Part of the Town.  
“ Thank Heaven, she brought but two  
“ with her, for the third, she let fall out  
“ of the Waggon as she came along ; and  
“ the Wheel going over it, it was crush’d  
“ to Death. Had the Mother, and the rest  
“ of

“ of her Brats shar’d the same Fate, I had  
“ been happy.

“ Soon as I had fixt her in a Lodging,  
“ I gave her a Guinea, and left her with  
“ a Promise to return in the Evening, but  
“ I did not go nigh her for six Days. On  
“ the Seventh, she came to my House ;  
“ and I being abroad, was introduc’d to  
“ my new Wife, to whom she told all  
“ her lamentable Story, and met with  
“ some Relief from her Good-nature.

“ You may be sure I had a fine Re-  
“ ception when I came Home——Tears,  
“ Reproaches, and Threats, made up the  
“ Scene : In short, I found my Date of  
“ Quiet was expir’d, so I e’en resolv’d  
“ to put an End to all my Plagues at once.  
“ Besides, I was afraid, when the Father  
“ knew of the Affair, he would proceed  
“ against me at Law ; therefore to avoid  
“ a Halter, I went to my Lawyer, who  
“ let me have Five Hundred Pounds more  
“ upon the small Remainder of my Estate ;  
“ which, with about Eight Hundred more  
“ I had left of my Wife’s Fortune, I de-  
“ termin’d to go Abroad ; but before I set  
“ out I gave, for Two Hundred Pounds,  
“ a Bill of Sale upon my Furniture, which  
“ cost me upward of Five, for I was re-  
“ solv’d not to leave a Farthing that I  
“ could possibly carry away with me.  
“ Thus provided, I hir’d a Post-Horse and  
“ made

“ made the best of my Way to *Dover* ;  
“ where I found a Vessel that transported  
“ me in Safety to the *French* Coast, leav-  
“ ing my two Wives to dispute their Ti-  
“ tles to my Person and Estate by them-  
“ selves.

“ I made the best of my Way for *Pa-*  
“ *ris*, where I furnish’d myself with all  
“ fashionable Necessaries, and pass’d for an  
“ *Englishman* of Quality. Thus reputed,  
“ I soon got into all Sorts of gay Com-  
“ pany, among which were a Set of Gen-  
“ tlemen that play’d very high. Here I  
“ lost, in six Months, best Part of the Mo-  
“ ney I carried over with me ; which re-  
“ duc’d me to the Necessity of engaging  
“ with a Party of Gamesters, who knew  
“ the best of the Lay. With these, and  
“ the Assistance of false Dice, I brought  
“ myself near Home. I follow’d this  
“ Course for upwards of four Years, when  
“ I unluckily quarrell’d with ’em, about  
“ the Division of a Booty, and forc’d to  
“ proceed upon my own Abilities. But  
“ here I was not successful ; for having  
“ cheated a Marquis of a large Sum, by  
“ false Dice, and marking the Cards, (for  
“ I play’d at all Games) he found me out,  
“ had me seized, and hurried away to  
“ Goal, while my Effects were all confis-  
“ cated, and forfeited to the Govern-  
“ ment.

“ I lay



“ I lay in Prison upwards of twelve  
“ Months, and must have perish’d there,  
“ had not a Gentleman, with whom I had  
“ some little Acquaintance, supported me;  
“ and, I believe at last was instrumental in  
“ obtaining my Liberty. You may easily  
“ guess the ragged Condition I was in,  
“ when I came out of Confinement ; with-  
“ out Cloaths, Money or Friends, for my  
“ Character was so infamous, as a common  
“ Cheat, that not one of my old Compa-  
“ nions, tho’ upon the same Lay, would  
“ know or take any Notice of me.

“ This Gentleman furnish’d me out to-  
“ lerably well, and entertain’d me in his  
“ own House, where he employ’d me in  
“ copying some Writing of his own com-  
“ posing. He was a great Author ; and  
“ tho’ he had a Place under the Govern-  
“ ment, was a private Satirist against it.  
“ This Employment, and the Entertain-  
“ ment of his Table, might have satisfy’d  
“ a common Man ; but I was of too as-  
“ piring a Nature, to be contented with  
“ Business. I wanted to be among the  
“ better Sort. I was created for Pleasure,  
“ and not Drudgery ; but Money was  
“ wanting, and how to get at that was  
“ for some Time more than I could con-  
“ trive : At length Fortune gave me an  
“ Opportunity.

“ Among

“ Among the rest of this Gentleman’s  
 “ Works, was a very severe Satire against  
 “ a certain Bishop ; which I not only copy’d  
 “ for him, as he directed, but when his  
 “ Back was turn’d took another for myself.  
 “ This stood me in great Service ; for, a-  
 “ bout this Time, I got acquainted with a  
 “ Couple of young Fellows, who had fol-  
 “ low’d a Gentleman from *England* very  
 “ fond of Play, in order to set and make  
 “ the best of him ; and they offer’d to let  
 “ me into the Scheme, if I could raise some  
 “ Money, to increase the Stock. As I was  
 “ loth to lose so fair an Opportunity of  
 “ making my Fortune, I e’en went to the  
 “ Bishop, shew’d him the Libel I had  
 “ transcrib’d, and discover’d the Author.  
 “ The old Man rewarded my Service with a  
 “ Purse of Fifty Lewis d’Ors, which I im-  
 “ mediately threw into Stock with my Affo-  
 “ ciates. As to my Writing-Friend, it was  
 “ not in his Power to detect or upbraid me ;  
 “ for he was thrown into the *Bastile*, and  
 “ what became of him I never heard.”

This Scoundrel was going on ; but my  
 Indignation was now grown so high, that I  
 started up, caught him by the Throat,  
 call’d him all the ungrateful, uncharitable  
 Villains, my Tongue could utter ; and was  
 tempted to rid the World of such a Nui-  
 sance, by stabbing him to the Heart : Which,  
 I be-

I believe, I should have done, had not his Cries brought in the Drawer, and prevented me. I pay'd the Reckoning, and warn'd him never to know, speak to, or take notice of me, upon any Occasion whatever; swearing by all the sacred Ties of Honour and Religion, that if I ever heard he call'd me Friend, said he had been in my Company, or even mention'd my Name, I would use him, as his Infamy deserv'd. He seem'd frighten'd at my Threats, and went out of the Room; but I could hear him mutter as he went, "D——n me, you would all "do the same, if you were in Necessity."

I was some Time before I could recover myself, from the Horror this Fellow's Villainy had thrown me into; which he related, not with any Remorse, but with a triumphant Pleasure, that seem'd to expect Applause from his Auditor. I did not think there was a Wretch capable of committing such base Actions; but to meet with one so harden'd as to acknowledge and glory in 'em, was a Monster beyond all Belief: But Heaven, with infinite Justice, punish'd his Perfidy, by reducing him to the deplorable Situation, of being oblig'd to the most contemptible Set of Wretches for a bare Subsistence; that he might feel the Tortures of Poverty and Contempt, due to such unparalleled Villainies.

## C H A P. IV.

*Some Reflections upon Misery's Villainy. The  
Consequence of my Contempt of it. The  
Reason of my going out of Town, and  
what befel me in my Retirement.*

**I** Went Home, to reflect upon what I had heard; and, with the severest Judgment, to examine myself, and see if I could find within me any Seeds of that wicked Nature, which that impious Wretch seem'd full of.—I cannot say (and I think I was not partial) that I could judge myself guilty of any Crimes of a grosser Kind, than what the Hurry of Appetite, and Heat of Blood, will draw Youth into: And I determin'd, whatever Fortune might befall me, never to commit an Action that might shock my own Conscience, or make Mankind abhor me. Among these Reflections, the private Design I had form'd upon my Landlord's Wife, rose black before me; but I bless'd my Stars that I had made no Advances in the Affair, and resolv'd never to think of it any more, nor be accessary to the Ruin of an honest Woman, or destroy the Peace of a whole Family.

I could not indulge my Meditations so long as I would have done, for the impertinent *Sophy* broke in upon me. with an Enquiry

quiry after my Health. She drew a Chair as usual, and began Conversation. She set out with asking me, Whether I had been ever married? And, when I assur'd her, No,——with a Leer, she said; “Lard! “I wonder at that: I am sure it must be “your own Fault, for my Sex are seldom “backward to receive the Addresses of a “handsome Gentleman.” A deal of this Stuff she run on with, which I did not know what to make of; unless she meant to insinuate a secret Inclination she had for my Person: Which could not engage my Attention in the least, for she had neither Wit or Beauty to allure me. All the Effect she could have upon me, was to vex and put me out of Humour; which she did heartily at this Time, and would have proceeded, if Mr. *Founder* had not come in; and, hearing I was at Home, ran up Stairs, crying out, “Mr. *Buckler*! Mr. *Buckler*! “do you know why a Man is always in “*Debt*, when he’s in *Bed*?” Before I could reply, he went on (as well as his Breath would let him; which was almost gone, with the quick Course he had made up Stairs) “Why, because he lives then “upon TICKING. Ha! what do you “think of that, Master *Buckler*? You understand me, don’t you? A Man that “lives upon TICK, as we say, you know, “lives upon CREDIT.——Ha! I said it just “now

“ now at the Coffee-House, and I thought  
“ the People would have dy’d with laugh-  
“ ing. Egad, I ran Home to tell you di-  
“ rectly, for fear I should forget it.” So  
saying, he called *Sophy*, and went down a-  
gain; repeating, as he went. “ Because  
“ he lives upon TICKING. Ha! ha! up-  
“ on TICKING.

They were no sooner got down, than I  
follow’d ’em; and, to avoid any farther  
Impertinence, went directly to the Play,  
where I had the Pleasure of enjoying my own  
Thoughts for an Hour, and then was well  
entertain’d for Three more with the Poet’s  
Imaginations: Which so becalm’d my Spi-  
rits, and put ’em into such regular Motion,  
that I went to a Tavern, eat a Mutton  
Chop, and drank a Pint of Wine by myself;  
and then retir’d to my Chamber, without  
being interrupted (as Luck would have it)  
either by my Landlord’s Wit, or his Niece’s  
Impertinence.

The next Day I went to the Coffee-  
House, where I found the usual Company,  
just arrived from the Horse-Race they had  
attended for two Days past. I sat down to  
play with ’em, and lost near a Hundred  
Pounds in four Hours. As I had been hi-  
therto successful, the Company were not a  
little pleas’d to see my Fortune chang’d.  
They said many whimsical Things upon e-  
very Stake I lost, and, among ’em, one that  
I did



I did not rightly understand ; which was  
 “ — Come Mr. *Honesty*, give me that  
 “ Money : ” Or whatever Question they  
 had to me, they join’d the Epithet of *Honest*  
 to it ; which, being so often repeated, be-  
 gan to make me warm, and ask what they  
 meant : Upon which one, more intrepid  
 than the rest, said — “ Nay, Sir, I never  
 “ thought you more honest than your  
 “ Neighbours ; but my old Friend *Misery*  
 “ here, gives you so great a Character, that  
 “ I think you shall never go by any other  
 “ Name.”

This Declaration convinc’d me that the  
 Scoundrel I had so justly treated at the  
 Tavern, had been making his Tale good  
 among his Acquaintance, and I was to be  
 the Jest of the Company for not espousing  
 a Villain ; which so provoked me, that I  
 got up in a Rage, and declared my Opini-  
 on in these Words — *Gentlemen, if any*  
*Man takes a Liberty with me upon that Ras-*  
*cal’s Account, or thinks he does not deserve*  
*the utmost Contempt from all Mankind, I*  
*think him an equal Scoundrel* — I was go-  
 ing on, when one of ’em got up, and said ;  
*I, and all the Company present, have long*  
*known and approv’d his Conduct.* — *Why*  
*then,* reply’d I, *you are only Company fit for*  
*each other, and I am sorry an honest Man*  
*should be seen in the same Room with you.*

— From this some Words arose, and one  
 of

of 'em gave me the Lie; upon which I knock'd him under the Table, and drew, and stood upon my Defence: For the whole Set, which were about fourteen, seem'd inclin'd to take his Part. Whether their Honour or their Fear prevented 'em, I can't tell, but they made no Attack upon me; and I went out, with a firm Resolution never to enter the House again.

I went Home, and began to reflect on the Wretches I had so long been link'd to. The more I thought, the worse I found 'em; for they must be void of all Humanity, Morals, and Sense of Virtue, that could stand up in Defence of so wicked an Animal, as the Villain they call'd *Misery*.

I told over my Cash, and found I had now Six Hundred Pounds by me, which I determin'd to lay out in some Place or other, and never think of Play any more. The better to fix my Resolution, and to shun all Enticements to the contrary, I went out of Town, where I might have Leisure to consider of Means to make my future Life more happy and honourable.

The Place I chose for my Retirement was *Hampstead*. I had once been there with *La Mour*, and was charm'd with the Situation. I took a Couple of handsome Rooms near the *Heath*, and sought no other Amusement

amusement for ten Days, more than what Books and my own Reflections afforded me.

This Life, however pleasant at first, began to tire, and I wish'd for a little Conversation. I sought the Coffee-House, where I was not long before I became acquainted. There was a Whist-Club, into which I was admitted. It consisted chiefly of grave, old, rich Dons, that had no other Pleasure in Life than getting Money, though each of 'em had already more than they could enjoy. As I had Plenty of Cash, and lost it freely (for this was a Game I was but a Youngster at) I could not fail, among such Men, of being a welcome Member.

By constantly attending the Club, I grew with some quite intimate; others indeed were of that crusty, cautious Nature, that they seem'd to wish no further Acquaintance with me, than while my Purse could gratify their Avarice.

Among the freer Sort was a Gentleman, whom I shall call *Harper*. He had been bred to Trade, and acquired a handsome Fortune by it; but, being tir'd of Business, had withdrawn himself from Town, with his Wife and one only Daughter, and liv'd comfortably upon the Profits of his former Industry.

This Gentleman often invited me to his Table, where every Thing was good and

genteel, but not extravagant. Himself was hearty and sincere ; his Wife cheerful and complying ; and his Daughter, though not in the Rank of Beauties, yet of so pleasant a Disposition, and so fraught with Wit, which being directed by an uncommon Understanding, made her the Delight of every one that had the Pleasure of her Conversation.

The Happiness so visible in this Family, made the frequent Invitations Mr. *Harper* made me, very agreeable. Indeed I could not find any Company so entertaining to me. I was generally there three or four Times a Week, and was still more and more delighted. I imagined at first (as I observed) my Pleasure proceeded from the general good Humour of the Family, but a little Time convinc'd me the Daughter had the greatest Power of Charming. A Passion insensibly stole upon me, that I could relish nothing without the Presence of the fair *Maria* ; nor was she ignorant of the Pleasure she gave me, but seem'd to have an equal Liking to my Conversation.

At length we were so plain in our Inclinations, and so little cautious of our kind Expressions to each other, that Mr. *Harper* perceiv'd 'em, and one Day, when we were walking in the Garden after Dinner, drew me aside ; and, when we were got some Distance from the Company, he spoke thus —“ Mr.

—“ Mr. *Buckler*, you must imagine I  
 “ have liv’d long enough to guess at young  
 “ Peoples Inclinations by their Behaviour,  
 “ without being told ’em in express Words.  
 “ To be short, I think you have some  
 “ private Thoughts of my Daughter; and,  
 “ I believe, from what I have observed,  
 “ that her Inclinations tend towards you.  
 “ To tell you a certain honest Truth, I  
 “ have no Dislike to it, provided you can  
 “ prove yourself the Man of Honour and  
 “ Fortune I think you. You must excuse  
 “ my Enquiries, since our Acquaintance  
 “ was accidental, and our Intimacy of no  
 “ long Date. If, I say, (*continued he*) you  
 “ can satisfy me in these Points, and think  
 “ well enough of my Daughter to make  
 “ her your Wife, I will give my Consent  
 “ with Pleasure, and a Portion of Eight  
 “ Thousand Pounds: But excuse my Cau-  
 “ tion, for in my Daughter’s, lies all my  
 “ Happiness; and the Fortune I give with  
 “ her, is the best Part of what I have been  
 “ labouring for all my Life.”

The old Gentleman’s frank Declaration,  
 and tender Regard to his Child, so con-  
 fus’d me, that I was some Time before I  
 could reply: But at length I answered;  
 “ Sir, one Point I can immediately satisfy  
 “ you in; that is, that I have a great In-  
 “ clination to become Part of your Fami-

ly: Nor must you wonder a Lady of  
*Maria's* Qualifications, should raise that  
 Wish in a Breast less sensible of Merit  
 than mine; for, I believe, all that con-  
 verse with her, must like; and liking,  
 must desire her."——As to the other  
 Particulars; I told him, a few Days should  
 convince him, that neither my Honour or  
 Fortune were beneath his Proposal. I had  
 scarce finished these Words, but we per-  
 ceived the Company making towards us, so  
 the Discourse ended, and we join'd the general  
 Conversation.

I went Home betimes that Evening, to  
 consider coolly of what Mr. *Harper* had said  
 to me.

## C H A P. V.

*My Resolution, upon Mr. Harper's Propo-  
 sal. — The Lady I met with. —  
 My Amour defeated. — My Return to  
 London.*

**I** Was strangely puzzled for an Answer  
 to Mr. *Harper's* Proposal. Sometimes  
 I resolv'd to satisfy my Love at the Ex-  
 pence of my Honour, by getting Somebo-  
 dy to vouch for my Fortune, and so trick  
 the old Gentleman of his Daughter and  
 her Fortune; But then it appear'd so black,  
 and



and so like the Actions I had condemned in that Rascal *Misery*, that my Soul shrunk with Horror at the Thought. But then again I considered, that Mr. *Harper's* Enquiry after Riches, was only the Effect of Avarice and old Age ; that if *Maria* lov'd me, as well as I did her, the Eight Thousand Pounds her Father propos'd to give her, would make us compleatly happy, without any further Assistance from Fortune ; and that tender Treatment of *Maria*, and decent Behaviour to her Father, in a little Time would convince him his Money was not ill laid out.

All this did not appear unlikely ; but, on the other Hand, I consider'd this Artifice upon *Maria's* Fortune, might give a Turn to her Inclinations, and change her from a fond and loving Bride, into a Fury, rais'd to Vengeance by Disappointment, and a base Imposition.

After weighing every Advantage that would accrue to me from this Match, and every Inconveniency that might arise from this iniquitous Way of concluding it, I resolv'd to keep firm to the Rule of Honesty, I had lately laid down to myself ; not to engage in any Action that I should blush at hereafter. I e'en finish'd my Reflections, and determin'd to acquaint Mr. *Harper* with the whole of my Story ; and if, after that, my ingenious Behaviour might

make him think me worthy of his Daughter, I would immediately marry *Maria*; if not, I would give over my Pursuit, forbear my Visits, and think of her no more.

Thus resolv'd, I waited upon Mr. *Harper*; but was told he was gone a Walking with some Company, from *London*, upon the *Heath*. Thither I followed, and was not long before I met with him and his Guests: But how was I surpriz'd, when the first Lady I was introduc'd to was Mrs. *Parrot*, *La Mour*'s Friend, and who had left us so abruptly at *Canterbury*?

My Confusion might easily discover she was no Stranger to me; nor was she less amaz'd at seeing me: However, with much ado, I went through the Ceremony of a Salute, without taking any Notice that I had ever seen her before. I walk'd with the Company, and went Home to Dinner with 'em, highly displeas'd with Mrs. *Parrot*'s being one of our Party.

I staid with 'em all Day, in Hopes Mrs. *Parrot* would return to *London*; but, before Supper, had the Mortification to hear she was to continue at Mr. *Harper*'s for a Week. This was a shocking Circumstance; for I did not doubt, as she had left *La Mour* and me in so rude a Manner, and never wrote to, or seen her since, that I knew of, but that something had greatly  
offended

offended her at that Time; and therefore concluded, that she would not be very favourable in her Report of me, in my Absence. But there was no Remedy, I was obliged to decamp, and leave my Character to a Woman, that did not seem to be over-burthen'd with Good nature.

I could not sleep all Night, for thinking what this Woman would say of me. Sometimes I curs'd my own Folly, for not taking Mr. *Harper* aside and telling him my Story, as I intended, before Mrs. *Parrot* could have an Opportunity of describing me worse than I deserv'd, but the Company, and the unexpected meeting with this Woman, so confus'd me, that my Reason did not point out the Remedy, 'till it was too late to put it in Practice.

The next Morning, spite of all that might have happen'd in the Interim, I waited upon Mr. *Harper*; but was told, he was rid out with the Ladies, and would not be at Home 'till Night, for they were to dine ten Miles off. I was surpriz'd at this News; for so intimate as that Gentleman and I were, it was strange he did not acquaint me of this Party over Night; nay, even invite me to be one of it: But as these Pleasures, where Women are concern'd, are often settled in a Hurry, I satisfy'd myself that this Excursion proceeded

from some sudden Start, after I had left the Company, and therefore waited with Patience 'till Mr. *Harper* return'd (for it was Club-Night) and at the Coffee-House I knew I should meet with him; for let him have what Company he would at his House, he never fail'd to attend there.

About nine o'Clock Mr. *Harper* came. He immediately fixt his Eyes upon me, and desir'd to speak with me in the next Room; where he had no sooner shut the Door, than in a confus'd Voice, he said; Mr. Buckler, *I have always look'd upon and receiv'd you like a Gentleman of Honour and Fortune; and I am sorry to tell you, that I have Reasons now to think I err'd in some Part of my Opinion.* I was going to reply — but he stopp'd me, by saying hastily — *Sir, I don't accuse you of any Thing, and therefore you can have no Defence to make. All I have to say, is, That as I once encourag'd your Addresses to my Daughter, I thought proper to inform you that I have now chang'd my Mind. Attribute this sudden Alteration to my whimsical Disposition, or what other Cause you please; but my Resolution, at present, is not to admit your Visits any longer to my House, nor ever hold any farther Correspondence with you.* With these Words he left me, went down stairs, and I return'd to the Company; in what Sort  
of

of Humour, the Reader may easily imagine. I soon threw up the Cards, for I was so confounded with Mr. *Harper's* Behaviour, that it was impossible for me to mind one Tittle of my Play. I retir'd to my Chamber to consider what Steps to take, and how to clear my Reputation; which, I was assur'd, now appear'd very black in the Family, where I had so lately been carefs'd.

As Mr. *Harper* would not hear me speak in my own Behalf, I was determined not to give up my Character in Silence, but acquaint him better of my Condition by Letter. I wrote as follows, and sent it the next Morning.

S I R,

“ N Otwithstanding you are pleased to  
 “ lay the Breach of our Acquaint-  
 “ ance upon your own unsteady Dispositi-  
 “ on, I have a better Knowledge of the  
 “ World than to imagine that any Thing  
 “ more than an Excuse; and I would have  
 “ accepted it as such, whatever Violence I  
 “ might do my own Heart in parting so  
 “ suddenly with the fair *Maria*, whose  
 “ Beauty I admire, and whose Virtue I a-  
 “ dore, but that my Reputation is at Stake,  
 “ and demands a Reply. I am very sensible  
 “ any true Account of me, could not hurt  
 K 5 “ your

“ your Opinion of me : But if you wil  
“ listen to the unjust Surmises and false  
“ Accusations of one now in your House,  
“ it is no Wonder my Character should  
“ suffer, when given by a Woman whose  
“ want of Honour sullies the Virtue of e-  
“ very one she talks of. I mean Mrs. *Par-*  
“ *rot*, and I wish the Confidence you now  
“ put in her, you may not one Day repent  
“ of.——I only beg, in order to confute  
“ any malicious Account she may have  
“ given of me, to meet her ; and, before  
“ your Face, answer any Objections she can  
“ make to my Reputation or Fortune ——  
“ Don’t mistake, by what I have said of  
“ Mrs. *Parrot*, that I know any particular  
“ bad Action of her, for I never was in  
“ her Company but once in my Life, and  
“ she then left it very abruptly and ungen-  
“ teel. And I was told, by one who was  
“ better acquainted with her, that she was  
“ of a malicious Disposition ; and, for  
“ Trifles, would seek the greatest Re-  
“ venge : Which I have now Reason to be-  
“ lieve was true, for I am certain it is she  
“ who has robb’d me of your Friendship,  
“ and the Happiness I propos’d with the  
“ fair *Maria*.——My small Knowledge of  
“ Mrs. *Parrot*, makes it unlikely she should  
“ know much more of me : But this may  
“ be better explain’d when we meet, which  
“ I beg you will not delay ; and, as the  
“ Favour



“ Favour I beg is small, I hope you will not  
“ refuse it to your sincere Friend,

J. BUCKLER.

On the Reply to this Letter depended much of my future Happiness ; but I did not rest long in Expectation, for in less than an Hour I receiv'd, upon a little Bit of Paper, not seal'd, the following Words :

S I R,

“ I Have already told you my Resoluti-  
“ on ; and, if you would preserve any  
“ Part of my Friendship, (which you seem  
“ so fond of ) I desire you never to trouble  
“ me upon this Subject any more.

“ Yours, &c.”

This unmannerly Answer of Mr. *Harper's* so vext and provok'd me, that I immediately resolv'd to quit the Place, and never trouble myself any more about him or his Family ; but to seek out some Means to be reveng'd on Mrs. *Parrot*, who had been the Cause of so much Confusion.

Upon looking over my Cash, I found I had fresh Cause of Complaint ; for while I was pursuing this fantastical Family, I had wasted above an Hundred and Fifty  
Pounds.

Pounds. Some I had squander'd away to make a Figure, and give *Maria* a good Opinion of my Fortune; but the greater Part I had lost among the Dreaming-Club, at the Coffee-House: Fellows who had no Sense of Pleasure, but what Money could give. Mr. *Harper* was one of the best of 'em; but, I was convinc'd, he had his Share of Avarice too.

I can't quit this Scene, without saying something of *Maria*. Her Disposition was generous, and quite averse to selling herself to Fortune. I believe too she lov'd me, and would willingly have shar'd her own Portion with me, without enquiring into mine; for Happiness, not Riches, seem'd to be her Aim. But then she had been train'd up in so implicate an Obedience to her Parents Will, and was so partial to their Judgment, that even her Passions gave way to Duty. Her Mind being thus form'd, I thought all Hopes of obtaining a private Audience of her impossible; for she would have look'd upon it as the highest Crime, to hold a Correspondence her Father did not approve of. If this had not been my Opinion of her Disposition, I should have attempted Means to have engag'd her Inclinations, without consulting Mr. *Harper's* Interest; and should have look'd upon it as a just Revenge (tho' I had married her unknown to him) for his  
ill

ill Treatment of a Man, who so generously offer'd to confute any Objections the malicious Mrs. *Parrot* could make to him.

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## C H A P. VI.

*My Return to London. The strange Letter I receiv'd, and the ill Fortune I met with.*

W H E N I got to Town, I went directly Home, where my Landlord receiv'd me with his usual Humour; crying out, "Ha! ha! what Master *Buckler*!" "I am glad you are come! I have said a Thousand fine Things, since you have been out of the Way. Wit in Abundance. I have set 'em all down; I'll read 'em to you To-morrow. In the mean Time, read that (*continu'd he*) it came from the *Indies*. You are a great Merchant, Master *Buckler*. Letters from all Parts of the World, ha!"—Here he gave me a Letter; in which, upon opening I found, to my great Amazement, the following Words:

JAMAICA

Most Worthy Sir,

“ **T**O you I owe my Life, my Reputation, and my Fortune; and therefore, as in Duty bound, I send this to let you know, the Happiness your Goodness has guided me to. Your Letters gave me Welcome from all the People they were directed to. I never met with such kind Entertainment, even from my own Parents, as from your Friends in these Parts. By the Advice of Mr. *Dale*, at whose House I have liv'd above a Year, I receiv'd the Addresses of a Gentleman of great Possessions. The Match is agreed on, and to be concluded in a Fortnight. Great Preparations are making for the Ceremony. This unexpected Visit of good Fortune, I know will give you Satisfaction equal to any Accident in Life. But will you, good Sir, have Patience to hear a fond Mother's Apprehensions, and a Woman's Love?—In spite of these providential Strokes in my Favour, I feel a secret Pain for the dear Man that first undid me, and a Mother's Fears for the poor Boy I left behind me; who has no Father to acknowledge it, nor any Friend but you, to support it. It  
“ would

“ would be Ingratitude in me to doubt  
“ your Care of it, since you gave your  
“ Word to see it properly brought up, and  
“ your Actions have always exceeded your  
“ Promises. But pray add one Obligation  
“ more to those I already have to you,  
“ and send me a Letter, by the first Ship  
“ that goes out, how the dear Infant does ;  
“ for his Father, the Master of my Heart,  
“ whom in all Likelihood I shall never see  
“ again, lives in his Features, and all my  
“ Happiness is in his Prosperity. I hope  
“ you will receive the few Jars I have sent,  
“ as a Token of my Gratitude. They are  
“ the only Rarities the Place affords, and  
“ I wish they had been better worth your  
“ Acceptance——And so recommending,  
“ once more, my dear Child to your Pro-  
“ tection, I remain, with all Duty and  
“ Sincerity of Heart, your much oblig’d,  
“ and fav’d, (as you directed me to stile  
“ myself)

## INDIANA.

This unaccountable Letter, directed to me, brought a Thousand Fancies into my Head ; which, upon the least Reflection, seem’d wild and impossible. Sometimes I imagin’d this Letter came from *Polly* ; but then how could that be, as she never knew I had chang’d my Name to *Buckler* ? Besides,

sides, all the Purpose of the Letter ran upon some generous Action done to some Woman, which I had never had in my Power; or, if I had, never met with any such Object. Nor had I any Friend or Acquaintance in the *Indies*, as the Letter plainly mention'd.

After, weighing every Circumstance, I concluded it was done by some People, who had a Mind either to flatter my Vanity, or make me live in Expectation of some great Present from abroad, which the Letter promis'd (for none of the Jars mention'd were arriv'd) and so divert themselves with my Disappointment.

I call'd up my Landlord, and enquir'd particularly how the Letter came. He told me, *A Sailor brought it, and begg'd something to drink; adding, "It was a long Way to bring a Note, and a hot way too, from Jamaica hither, without wetting."* So Faith, to answer in his own Way, I gave him a Shilling, and bid him sheer off; and so we parted: *That's all, said Mr. Founder, I know of the Matter. Tho',* added he, *I believe the People of the Coffee-House directed him here.*

I dress'd myself, and went (tho' I had sworn never to go within the Door again) to the Coffee-House, hoping to hear something more of this Letter. I no sooner enter'd, than the Master of the House call'd out;



out; *Your Servant, Mr. Buckler, did you receive a Letter that a Sailor brought? I told him where you liv'd.*——I then took him aside, and told him I believ'd the Letter was wrote by some People that us'd his House, in order to lead me into an Error; and desir'd, if he knew, to acquaint me with the Secret. He protested, in the most solemn Manner, that he knew no more than that a Sailor brought it, ask'd for Mr. *Buckler*, said it came from on board a Ship; and that the Person who sent it, not knowing particularly where to direct, order'd him to enquire at all the Coffee-Houses about St. *James's*, 'till he had found the Gentleman.

This Answer was no more satisfactory, than what I had receiv'd at Home; but, as I knew no Method to find out the Truth, I determin'd to be easy and think no more of it, 'till Time should unravel the Mystery: For I consider'd, if it belong'd to me, they would call for an Answer from me; if directed or deliver'd by Mistake, it would soon be enquir'd after by the right Owner.

While I was questioning the Master of the Coffee-House, the Company I us'd to converse with were proposing a Reconciliation between me, and the Person I had struck upon *Misery's* Account; and, when I came from the Back-Room, the whole Set open'd their Desire. My Nature was too open and free,

free, to keep Malice in my Heart ; and, at their Request, we shook Hands, and all Animosities ceas'd.

The Money I had expended and lost at *Hampstead*, was not out of my Mind ; so, upon this friendly Meeting, I sat down and play'd as usual, in Hopes to recover what I so idly had fool'd away : But, to my great Concern, found by Eleven o'Clock, I had added to the Loss upwards of Three Hundred Pound.

I went Home, almost distracted with my ill Fortune ; curs'd the Letter, that again drew me to the House I had forsworn, and look'd upon my Loss as a punishment on me for breaking my Oath. In the midst of my Anger, when I had retir'd to my Chamber to contemplate on my Misfortune, and wish'd for no Company but my Rage, Mrs. *Sophy*, with an ugly Simpering came in, and began to ask me a Thousand Questions about *Hampstead* ; how I lik'd the Company——what Ladies I met with—— and a Thousand other such impertinent Interrogations, that drove me out of Patience, and made me hastily say ; *Go, Madam, to your own Chamber, unless you have a Mind to lie with me, for I am going to Bed.*

*Sophy* immediately started up, saying, *Lard, Sir, if these are your Tricks, you shan't catch me in your Chamber again in Haste ;* and, as she went out of the Room, I could hear

hear her say, *These young Coxcombs are so vain, that, if a woman is civil to 'em, they think all is done to their Hands. A foolish Puppy ! I'll let him see his Mistake——I wonder what he takes me for !*

Spite of my Misfortunes, I could not help laughing at the Folly of this foolish Wench ; who had vainly interpreted my Patience, in suffering her to chatter by the Hour, into Love.——I went to Bed, but never once clos'd my Eyes. The loss of my Money kept me like one in Amazement. I was surpriz'd how it could be, and could not help thinking some unfair Methods had been taken to bubble me.——Foolish Supposition ! for, since I have consider'd with more Judgment, I don't remember I was so much astonish'd, when I had won such unexpected Sums ; nor did the Joy my good Fortune brought counterpoise, in any Degree, the Agonies this Disappointment gave me.

## C H A P. VII.

*My ill Luck continues. A Hint I receiv'd.  
I met with Sambert. The Quarrel I en-  
gag'd in, &c.*

**I**N the Morning I had a Thousand Schemes in my Head; some to regain the Money I had lost, and others to preserve and make the best Use of that still in my Possession. I sat down to write a penitential Letter to my Father; but, before I had half finish'd it, I threw it aside, and foresaw his Cruelty before I had ask'd his Forgiveness. In short, after canvassing every Design, I found none so likely to succeed, as that of pursuing my Fortune at Play. So bewitching is this curs'd Vice, that, when once a Man is engag'd in it, notwithstanding the Losses he has met with, he can't think or turn his Brain to any Project, to repair those Losses, but the same which first brought 'em on.

I went the next Night, and play'd for some Time; but, finding the same ill Run of Luck against me, I put on a noble Resolution and desisted, with only Fifty Pounds a Loser. As I was going away, one of our Set took me aside, and told me, if I would meet him the next Evening, at a Tavern he mention'd, I should find it worth my while:

Adding,

Adding, ' Mr. *Buckler*, there will be only  
' six of us, and we shall play pretty deep;  
' for there is a Younker come from A-  
' broad, who is fond of the Diverſion, and  
' has Money enough to divert himſelf, and  
' make good our Loſſes, if he be rightly  
' manag'd.' I thank'd my Friend (as I  
thought him) for this Intelligence, and pro-  
miſ'd to be punctual to the Time. The  
fair Proſpect now before me, of retrieving  
what I had loſt, gave me freſh Spirits. I  
reſolv'd to think no more of my Miſfor-  
tunes, 'till the Time came of redreſſing  
'em.

Accordingly I went to the Play, and ſaw  
the two laſt Acts; and from thence, being  
full of Pleaſantry, would not go Home to  
be plagu'd with my Landlord's Puns, or  
his Niece's Enquiries, but ſpend the Even-  
ing chearfully at the Tavern, with two or  
three merry Gentlemen, I had at different  
Times met accidentally with, and were now  
aſſembled to paſs the Evening.

I ſtay'd with them 'till One o'Clock;  
and, being a little warm with what I had  
drank, as ſoon as I had parted with my  
Company, I reſolv'd to take a Frolick a-  
mong the Ladies, who attended at a Cof-  
fee-Houſe in *Covent-Garden*, that was never  
open 'till all the reſt were ſhut up.

In my Way thither I met with *Sambert*,  
very ſober, and following his Servant, who  
care-

carefully was lighting him Home. I had not seen him for a considerable Time ; and therefore immediately accosted, and ask'd him how he did. Instead of meeting my Salutation with his usual Wildness, he very gravely said,— ‘ *Jasper*, I am glad to see thee : I should take it kindly of you, if you would call upon me To-morrow, at my Lodgings in *Pall-Mall*, for I want to talk with you.’— My dear *Sambert*, reply'd I, ‘ don't put it off 'till To-morrow, let you and I go together now ; I am in a frolicksome Mood, and want a Wench, and I know you can recommend me.’— ‘ No *Jasper*,’ answer'd he gravely, ‘ I have no Interest with those Creatures now ; nor can I stay to talk, for I have exceeded my Hour, and must make Haste Home. If you'll let me see you To-morrow, it will oblige me.’——So saying, he bow'd, and bad his Man go on ; leaving me in the utmost Surprize, at the strange Alteration I found in him. I can't say but I was glad to see it ; for, while he gave way to that wild, unthinking manner, instead of being useful to his Friends, he was their greatest Enemy : For he never, hitherto, had look'd upon any Body with Affection, but what would accompany him in his Follies. If you could drink, whore, abuse the Watch, or invent any new Extravagancy, he put you into his Bosom ; but where he found



found the least Inclination to Goodness there he grew strange, and never sought the Person again.

Notwithstanding I was sensible of my Friend's Folly, and glad of his Conversion, I could not curb the Inclination I had to take a Frolick. I was warm with Wine, and resolv'd to finish the Night gaily : Besides, I had been so teiz'd and perplex'd for some Time pass'd, that I thought a little Recreation would heal my Misfortunes, and drive 'em out of my Mind.

Thus resolv'd, I went to a gay Coffee-House in *Covent-Garden*, which I had often us'd, but had lately been less frequent in my Visits.

I found much the same Sort of Company as usual——Fine Gentlemen, and fine Ladies——All drunk, and all talking together, without either Sense or Meaning. There were several there, that I had seen ; but not one that I was intimate with, either Man or Woman. I call'd for half a Pint of Arrack, and sat down, rather to observe the Humour of the Company, than to mix with it.

I had not sat long before a mad Company of young Fellows, led by a Lady in a fine Riding-Habit, came singing down Stairs. They immediately attracted the Eyes of the whole Room, and mine among  
the

the rest. The Lady I soon perceiv'd was one of my old Acquaintance, that I had pass'd several Nights with since I came to Town. Seeing she was engag'd, I would have taken no Notice of her ; but she ran up to me, and catching me round the Neck, cry'd, *My dear, pretty Fellow, let me kiss you.* She had scarce satisfied her Inclination, before a tall Gentleman in lac'd Cloaths, very drunk, took me by the Shoulder ; and, turning me round, said, *Pray, Sir, do you know that Lady is my Wife ?* I reply'd, *No really, Sir, I did not know it ; but, if you are her Husband, I am sure you must be a very happy Man.* In a great Passion, he reply'd, *What's that to you, whether I am happy or no ? ———or whether I am marry'd or not——or——who are you ? I believe you are some shabby Scoundrel.*——These Words warm'd me a little ; but, as I saw him so much in Liquor, would have gone off ; saying, *Another Time you shall know me better.*——But he got between me and the Door ; and, lifting up his Cane, said, *You are a lying Rascal :* Which Compliment I immediately return'd, by knocking him down.

This brought the whole Party upon me, with their Canes all up, ready to destroy me ; and one in particular cry'd out, *Let's toss him in a Blanket.*——At which I drew my  
my

my Sword ; and, standing upon my Guard, declar'd I would run the first Man thro' that advanc'd : Then applying myself, in particular, to him that talk'd of a Blanket, told him, I would go out that Minute with the best Man among 'em.

By this they had rais'd the fallen Hero ; who took me up, and said, he insist'd upon Satisfaction. I was immediately going out, but his Friends said he should not follow me then, but take another Opportunity, when he was better able to defend himself.— Upon which I told my Antagonist, before the whole Company, that I expected to see him in the Ring in *Hyde-Park*, by Eight the next Morning, and so left the Room.

I went to the Bagnio, with design to refresh myself against the next Morning's Engagement. I threw myself upon the Bed, but could not close my Eyes ; for besides the natural Emotions that every Man must feel before such a Meeting, I was shock'd to think of the Consequence, if I should chance to be successful in the Combat : For, upon Recollection, I remember'd I had been so indiscreet as to give the Challenge before, at least, six or seven Witnesses, all his own Friends, and of Course my Enemies ; who would be sure to be very severe upon me, if ever the Case should appear in a Court of Justice.

About Seven o'Clock I set forward towards the *Park*, and got there exactly to my Time. I waited, almost starv'd with Cold, 'till the Clock struck Eleven; and, finding no Body come, I e'en walk'd away, not a little pleas'd, (as my Condition was) that my Antagonist had forgot his Appointment, or thought better of the Affair.

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## C H A P. VIII.

*The new Company I got into. My Success among 'em. The unexpected Letter I receiv'd, and the Consequence.*

**I** Went directly Home, and went to Bed, perfectly rejoic'd my last Night's Quarrel had no worse Consequences. My Resolution was to lie in Bed all Day; but I had not lain down above an Hour, before I was wak'd by some Person tapping at my Door. I suppos'd it was *Sophy*, come with her usual Impertinence; and so lay still, as if I had been asleep, and did not hear her.

I was several Times disturb'd in this Manner, but would not answer, or open the Door upon any Account. At Five o'Clock Mr. *Founder* himself came up, and made such a Thundering that I was oblig'd to reply. I slipt on my Things, and open'd the Door;

Door ; when the first Thing he said was—  
*So, Mr. Buckler, a fine Time of Day to be in  
 Bed ! If you lie so long by yourself, what  
 would you do if you was to lie upon my So-  
 phy ? I turn'd round ; and, looking hard  
 at him, said, He had got beyond my Com-  
 prehension.—Aye, reply'd he, may be so  
 —But I know your Inclinations—What, is  
 not your Bed soft enough, but you must press  
 my Sophy ? O for Shame, for Shame, added  
 he, you go too plump to the Matter. I be-  
 lieve the Girl is as willing as you ; but a little  
 Ceremony in these Cases is necessary, quite ne-  
 cessary, according to the ancient Laws of  
 Love-making.*

He was running on with a great deal  
 more of this Stuff ; but, as I partly guess'd  
 whence all his Nonsense tended, I stopt him  
 short, and desir'd he would tell me, in  
 plain Terms, what he meant about *Sophy*,  
 and what strange Chimera he had got in his  
 Head.

Nay, said he, *Mr. Buckler, if you are  
 angry, I will tell you—My Niece, Sophy,  
 has told me you wanted her, the last Night you  
 lay at Home, to go to Bed with you—Come,  
 come, say no more of it ; the Girl is an honest  
 Girl, and should not be so grossly attack'd.—  
 Honour, Honour ; consider Honour, Mr.  
 Buckler.*

He so amaz'd me with this Account, that I could not help flying into the greatest Passion; and swearing, by all I could think of, that I look'd upon *Sophy* as the greatest Inconvenience in the Family: That I had been often tempted, by her Impertinence, to leave my Lodging; and, as to asking her to go to Bed with me, I swore I would sooner lie upon a Bulk at the Door, than accept of the best Bed in *England*, with such a Companion.

Mr. *Founder* look'd a little shock'd, at my speaking so loud; and, in a Whisper, said—*Well, well, let's have no more on't; I'll keep her out of the Way, as much as possible: But say no more, for the House will be on Fire, if she hears it*—With these Words he left me, to wonder at the Impudence of his Niece; who took the Words I us'd to get rid of her, as a Request for her Conversation all Night. I was vext at the Folly of the Woman, and quite angry that he should think I had no more Delicacy in Love-making (as Mr. *Founder* stil'd it) than to go at once to the last Question: And my Vanity was mortified, when she imagin'd it could ever enter my Head, to have any Inclination for such a scolding Dowdy.

By that Time I was dress'd, my Friend call'd on me to go to the Tavern, to meet  
the



the new Party of Gamesters, by whom we were to make our Fortunes. It was but in the *Strand*, so we soon arriv'd at the appointed Place. I was introduc'd, with great Ceremony, to a Set of as genteel Men, in Appearance, as ever I had seen.

We began our Sport, and play'd very high for upwards of three Hours; and then two or three of the Company being oblig'd to go, we all agreed to break up, and meet again the next Night. I did not make so good a Hand of it as I expected, being only Twenty Pounds a Winner: Besides, I was not quite so charm'd with this Company as my Friend was, for they play'd so very high that once or twice I was out near Two Hundred Pounds; and my Stock was not enough, since my last Defeat, to venture so much at a Cast. However, I went Home, very well satisfied with what I had done, but resolv'd to use more Caution the next Time I play'd.

When I came Home Mrs. *Sophy*, with a mighty cold Look, gave a Letter, and told me it was just come. Upon looking at the Seal, I found it so clumsy, that I suspected some Body had rais'd it, and clos'd it again in that aukward Manner. Upon looking nearer to it, *Sophy* cry'd out, in a Pet, *You look, Sir, as if you thought some of us had open'd your Letter: Indeed we an't so inquisitive into other Folks Business.* This Speech

confirm'd me in my Suspicion, and I was pretty well convinced her impertinent Curiosity had examined the Contents ; but, as I was not certain of this, I would not make any farther Dispute, but quietly retir'd to my Chamber.

With what Astonishment did I see *La Mour's* Name to this Note ? I trembled so, with Surprize and Joy, that I could scarce read it.—It contain'd as follows :

*S I R,*

**I***F you can spare Time, from your many modish Amusements, to satisfy an old Acquaintance in some Particulars, I should be glad of an Hour's Conversation with you Tomorrow, at Nine o'Clock in the Morning, at Mr. Hart's.*

*Yours,*

LA MOUR.

Tho' I was glad of any Intelligence from that Quarter ; yet, upon perusing the Letter, I found there was a Sort of angry Sneer in it, that look'd as if it did not intend so kind a Meeting, as I wish'd and expected—However, I rose early in the Morning, dress'd, and went according to the Appointment.

*La Mour* was punctual to her Time, and I was about twenty Minutes after it. When

I

I came into the Room, I went to salute her, but she turn'd from me; and, looking at her Watch, said, *I began to think you were engag'd, and was going away.* I apologized for being so tardy, and laid the Fault upon the Difference of Watches; adding, *Madam, had I come first, I would patiently have waited 'till Midnight, for the dear Pleasure of meeting you at last.* If you have so much Regard for me, reply'd she, *how come you to have so little for my Friends? I think, in Respect to me, they might have escap'd your wicked Practices.* I stood amaz'd at what she spoke; and, before I could recover myself, she cry'd, *There, Sir, (at the same Time throwing a Letter to me) read whether I wrong you or not.* I took it up, and found as follows:

M A D A M,

‘ **T** H O’ our Intimacy (for very good  
 ‘ Reasons you know) has not been of  
 ‘ late so strict as it formerly was; yet, I  
 ‘ think, as I was content to hush up my  
 ‘ Resentment in Silence, you might have  
 ‘ let me remain quiet, and not have sent  
 ‘ your Fellow after me to *Hampstead*, to  
 ‘ abuse my Character, and vilify me in  
 ‘ the grossest Manner, to the best Friend I  
 ‘ have in the World.

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‘ I

‘ I desire you would tie up the foul  
 ‘ Mouths of your Darlings for the future,  
 ‘ lest I take a Method of Revenge, that  
 ‘ may make you, and the Villain your  
 ‘ Companion, tremble.

Your injur’d,

L. PARROT.

This Letter put me greatly to a Stand ; for tho’ I had good Reason for using Mrs. *Parrot* as I had done, yet it would have made against me here. What Words could I find to tell Mrs. *La Mour*, one who had sworn eternal Love to me, that my Quarrel with her Friend, was owing to her interrupting my Marriage with another Lady ? — No ; here my good Genius stood by me : For as the Letter neither mention’d my Name, nor any Circumstance about Mr. *Harper’s* Daughter, I resolv’d to out-face the Charge, and lay the Fault upon Mrs. *Parrot’s* having mistaken some other Person for me.

While I was musing over the Letter, *La Mour* was walking to and fro about the Room in a Heat, that seem’d to threaten a sudden Storm ; but I burst out a laughing (at which she turn’d upon me with a Frown) and cry’d out — *Sure Mrs. Parrot has lost her Senses, if she means me by this Letter, for*

*I have never seen her since she left us at Canterbury ; nor have I been these six Months at Hampstead, or do I know any Person near the Place.——A likely Thing, said La Mour, she should not know one she was so long in Company with ! Indeed, Madam, reply'd I, then her Memory must be better than mine ; for I don't believe I should know her, if I was to meet her.*

Some few Arguments of this Sort, corroborated by a few Oaths, pacified the angry *La Mour*, and made her believe *Mrs. Parrot's* Memory had fail'd her.

Her Anger seem'd asswag'd, but still there was a Pettishness about her, that did not become the Meeting of two Lovers, so long absent as we had been. She longed to give her ill Humour vent ; for *Mrs. Parrot* was no sooner dropt, than she began to question me about *Mr. Hart*, why I had withdrawn my Custom from him ; adding, *I know no Reason, the Man is a very honest Man, unless it is because I recommended him.* Here too I would not tell the real Reason ; but only said, *I had no Occasion for a Taylor, for some Months past : If I had, Mr. Hart would certainly have heard from me.*

Here she sat down in Silence, as if considering upon what Topick to ground a Quarrel on —— At length she burst into Tears ; and said, beating her Hands upon her Knees ----- *Never to send after me ! -----*

*Never enquire ! ----- Not a Line ! ----- Well, I have been a fine Fool ! ----- Love me ! ----- Yes, greatly ! -----* She was going on, when I interrupted her, and said, “ My  
 “ dear *La Mour*, if these Hints are meant  
 “ to accuse me of Unkindness, you wrong  
 “ me greatly. Have you not often told  
 “ me, my being seen near your House,  
 “ or known for your Acquaintance, would  
 “ be of the most desperate Consequence to  
 “ you ? Then how could I send, or come  
 “ near you, without disobeying your Com-  
 “ mands, and running the Hazard of de-  
 “ stroying your Quiet, and ruining your  
 “ Reputation ? In this Point, *continu'd I*,  
 “ if you suppose me sensible of your  
 “ Charms, or pain'd for the Loss of you,  
 “ you have been very unkindly deficient.  
 “ You might have wrote to me, with  
 “ Safety and Secrecy ; and a Line, a  
 “ Word from you, in this long Absence,  
 “ would greatly have reliev'd the Anxiety I  
 “ have felt on your Account.”

From these mutual Reproaches, we fell into a mutual Fondness : Anger gave way, and Love reassum'd his Seat. We kiss'd, embrac'd, and even wept the cruel Separation we were compell'd to.

While we were in this Situation Mr. *Hart* came in, to inform her it was past Eleven o'Clock ; at which she got up in some Confusion, embrac'd me, and said,  
 “ My



“ My dear *Jasper*, I must go, tho’ I leave  
“ my Heart behind.

As she was going out of the Door, she  
turn’d back ; and, in a Whisper, said—  
*Jasper*, “ don’t make yourself uneasy at  
“ what I have said ; for I don’t value Mrs.  
“ *Parrot* of a Farthing, nor Mr. *Hart*  
“ neither. You have convinc’d me of  
“ your Love and Honour”——So got into  
her Chariot, and drove away, and I turn’d  
down the Street directly, to avoid any Dis-  
course with Mr. *Hart*, whom I heartily de-  
spised.

## C H A P. IX.

*I visit Sambert. The Condition I found him  
in. Leonora’s Beauty. The Present I  
receiv’d.*

**I** Now made the best of my Way to *Sam-  
bert*, whom I had promis’d to visit the  
Morning before, but the curs’d Quarrel I  
enter’d into put it quite out of my Head.

When I came, I found the Krocker ty’d  
up, a Doctor’s Chariot at the Door, and  
all the Servants in Confusion. Upon En-  
quiry, I found my Friend had been seiz’d  
with a Fever the Day before, and lay in a  
dangerous Condition.

I left my Name, and was going away, not thinking it proper to disturb him; but one of the Servants stepp'd after me, and told me, his Master had left strict Orders, if I came, to shew me up to him, but no Person else. I took this as a particular Friendship for me, and gladly accepted the Invitation.

When I came into his Chamber, he made a Motion with his Hand for me to sit down; which I did, 'till the Doctor took his Leave. When he was gone, I went to his Bed-side, where he threw his Hand upon mine, and said——“ Dear *Jasper*, is it not hard, to be so near the  
 “ Possession of a Woman, adorn'd with  
 “ every Perfection of Mind and Body (for  
 “ I was to be marry'd To-morrow) and  
 “ then to meet with this severe Stroke of  
 “ Nature's, to part me from her, I fear,  
 “ for ever?”

I attempted to comfort him, but in vain; for he wrung his Hands, and cry'd out,  
 “ O! how many Hours of Health and  
 “ Strength have I squander'd away, upon  
 “ the most abandon'd Creatures, in Vice  
 “ and Luxury; and, now I have seen my  
 “ Folly, and want to taste the Joys that  
 “ Virtue and Goodness yield, I am con-  
 “ fined to Pain and Sicknes! My Fate is  
 “ hard! very hard! but I must submit to  
 “ it.”

Here

Here he lay still some Time, and I was in Hopes would take some Rest ; for I am sure it was very necessary, in his Condition : But presently he call'd out, in a soft Tone —“ *Jasper*, My Mother was here last Night, and promis'd to be with me again by Two o'Clock ; I wish you would write a Note to her in my Name, and desire her to bring, if possible, my dear *Leonora* with her ; the Sight of her will revive me beyond the Doctor's Power.”

I readily comply'd with his Request ; and wrote, in the genteelest Manner my Judgment could direct, and to his entire Satisfaction. When this was done, he entreated me also to write to *Leonora* ; which, he said, he would send at the same Time : “ For I am sure, *added he*, that dear Creature would be sooner mov'd to bless me with her Presence, when she sees the Request is from myself, than by my Mother's Interest with her : For, my dear Friend, her Passion is equal to my own.”

This too I attempted, but did not succeed so well as in the former ; for, when I had finish'd and read it to him, he said—“ O *Jasper*, you cannot write as a Lover. Complaisance and Affection may dictate to a Mother ; but, when we would communicate our Wishes to all we Love, those ceremonial Forms are cold and dull.

“ The

“ The Heart must be concern’d ; and,  
 “ ’till that feels, the Head can force no  
 “ Phrase to express its Tenderness.”

In short, his Expressions were so extravagant, that I thought his Distemper encreas’d, and he had lost his Senses. I entreated him to compose his Thoughts, and try to sleep ; but he so earnestly conjur’d me, if I lov’d him, to attempt a second Letter, that I could not refuse.—I had no better Success with this : Still it was not kind enough——In short, I wrote no less than four, and question whether I should have pleas’d at last or not, had not my Lover, with the Waste of Spirits he had suffer’d, sunk into a sound Sleep, before I had finish’d ; upon which I took the Advantage of his Nap, sign’d the Letters with my own Name, at the Request of Mr. *Sambert*, and sent a Servant away with ’em.

His Sleep continu’d ’till past Two o’Clock ; and, I believe, would have done so longer, had he not been wak’d by the Entrance of his Mother and *Leonora*. Neither of them paid any Regard to me, but immediately ran to his Bed-side, where Tears began to flow on all Sides ; which I thought it was not decent for me to observe, so retir’d into the next Chamber.

It was not long before the Doctor returned, who directly forbid any farther Discourse

course with *Sambert*, lest it should encrease his Disorder. By his Order, the old Lady and *Leonora* withdrew into the Chamber I was in.

The old Lady began to thank me for the Trouble I had taken for her Son, in writing his Letter to her, which was seconded by a Compliment from *Leonora*; who not only thank'd me for my Pains, but was pleas'd to speak much in Commendation of the Style and Sentiment: Adding, she was glad Mr. *Sambert* had so agreeable and sensible a Friend in his Necessity.

I had not Time to reply before the old Lady told me, the Doctor was of Opinion the Violence of his Distemper was abated; and, if he was kept from Company, might fall into a gentle Sleep, which would effect his Cure: Saying, at the same Time, "Sir, as I see my Son has a great Value for you, and you no small Respect for him, you must give me Leave to separate you for this Day; for you'll do, thro' Friendship, what should be avoided for Health — I won't trust you with him; you shall go Home and dine with me, and I am sure *Leonora* will be glad to receive the Friend of her intended Husband...." I could make no Answer but a Bow; for my Lady took me in one Hand, and *Leonora* by the other, and immediately led us down to her Coach.

All the Time of Dinner I was transported into Heaven, another Region, with the good Nature of my Lady, and the Beauty of *Leonora*. ——— Beauty ! did I say ? What Beauty ! Not her Features, nor her Shape, 'tho' both of excellent Workmanship ; but her gentle Tenderness, and modest Boldness, in acknowledging her Feeling for what she lov'd. Her tender Wishes for his Health, and her Hopes of Happiness upon his Recovery.

I can't describe from whence my Pleasure rose, unless it was from that compleat Face of Virtue, that I had hitherto been a Stranger to ; and, now breaking on a sudden upon me, gave me new Sensations, and releas'd an honest Passion I had, 'till this Hour, kept bound in Fetters, by usurping Lust and gross irregular Appetites.

I staid 'till Seven o'Clock ; and then but parted with 'em, at *Leonora's* Request, that I would visit Mr. *Sambert*, and bring her Word how he was. ——— I gladly obey'd her Orders, and brought her the happy News he was much better ; and then returned, as *Sambert* had desir'd me, to sit up with him that Night.

*Sambert* rested well, and was much better in the Morning. The Fever seem'd quite gone, and I did not doubt but a few Days would



would perfectly recover him. I staid 'till I heard the Doctor's Opinion, which seemed to tally pretty much with my own, and then went Home to refresh myself.

Mrs. *Sophy* let me in; and, with a Face as if I had murdered her Family, told me, There was a dozen Jars come for me: "And, I'll assure you, *added she*, I have "not open'd 'em;" harping upon the Letter, which I suspected she had examin'd.— "Where are they? *said I*. Sir, they are "all plac'd, *reply'd she*, in the Window, "by your Chamber-Door. There you will "find 'em——I am sure I would not "venture myself up Stairs, to shew 'em "you." So saying, she whipp'd into the Parlour, and shut the Door; by which Caution, I began to think the Girl's Vanity had perswaded her into a real Belief, that I wanted to ravish her.

I immediately examin'd my Jars, and found 'em full of the finest Sweet-meats and Pickles I had ever tasted, but how they came directed to me, puzzled me strangely. Being sure there was some Mistake in it, I resolv'd to let 'em stand, and not dispose of any Part of 'em; not doubting but a few Days would explain the Mystery, and the right Owner appear to claim both the Letter and Present.

## C H A P. X.

*Sambert recovers. He marries. His genteel Behaviour to me. How my Happiness was interrupted.*

**S**AMBERT lay ill about three Weeks, before he was able to take the Air; during which Time I was constant in my Attendance upon him, his Mother, and *Leonora*. I seldom din'd or supp'd from one of their Tables. My Engagements with these sober, agreeable People, put all my Women and gaming Companions out of my Head; and, without the Trouble of a violent Resolution never to converse with 'em any more, I never once thought of 'em, and my Mind was quite easy and serene. I had but one Wish; which was, That I might find some charming Woman, virtuous and beautiful as *Leonora*, with Inclinations for me, like those she had for my Friend *Sambert*; for my Plan of Happiness was not now founded on Luxury and Vice, but on Temperance and honest Love.

*Sambert* recover'd and was marry'd, and great Preparations made for the Reception of their Friends; among which I was look'd on, by all Parties, as one of the most worthy,

worthy, and had many Tokens of their Friendship to prove the Sincerity of it.

Hearing nothing all this Time from any Body about the Jars I receiv'd, I determin'd to make some of 'em a Present to Mr. *Sambert* ; considering it was much better, let the Mistake lie where it would, to use 'em, than let 'em stand by and be spoil'd. Accordingly I open'd 'em, and pick'd out some of the best for my Friend. And, indeed, it was Time to dispose of them ; for, upon examining, I found Somebody (Mrs. *Sophy* I suppos'd) had been picking from 'em, for many of the Sweet-meats had shrunk strangely. Her liquorish Tooth, and curious Disposition, could not let 'em rest without tasting. Yet she run great Hazard of Detection ; for tho' I had broke the Wax, when they first came, to look at 'em, yet I had 'em carefully cemented again : But Madam had found a Means to open, and fasten 'em afterwards ; nor should I have ever suspected the Robbery, if I had not look'd into 'em. However, I took no Notice, but resolv'd to lay some Scheme that might trap her in the Fraud. I sent six of the most curious Pots to my Friend ; which were received with many Compliments, and greatly admir'd.

I was constantly with *Sambert* and his Lady, for upwards of two Months after their Marriage. They would not sit down  
to

to Dinner 'till I came, and I was as free in their House as one of the Family : Indeed I still kept my Lodgings at Mr. *Founder's*, but made no other Use of 'em, but just to sleep in.

In the Midst of this Tranquillity and Happiness, one Evening, sauntering in the Piazza, who should accost me, but that Friend who first introduc'd me to the Set of gaming Gentlemen at the Tavern——

“ So, Friend *Jasper*, said he, you are resolv'd to be out of the Way, when you should make your Fortune. I heartily wish'd for you two Days ago : We had a great Meeting, and a lucky one for me, for I carry'd off upwards of Eight Hundred. We meet again To-night, and I don't doubt of having the same Success.”

He strongly press'd me to make one of the Party, and I own his good Fortune was enough to tempt a more resolute Man than myself, to try his Luck. Made giddy by his Encouragement, immediately a Thousand golden Dreams possess'd my Fancy. I saw Thousands pouring in upon me ; 'till, having perswaded myself into a Belief that I should make my Fortune, I promis'd to meet him punctually at Eight o'Clock, and go with him to the Company.

I went to *Sambert*, and excus'd myself from supping with him, under the Pretence  
of

of particular Business I had to transact for a Gentleman in Trouble. I was no sooner got free from him, than I went Home and put Two Hundred Guineas into my Pocket, not doubting but I should more than double the Sum before I return'd.

My Friend was punctual to his Appointment, and we went to the Tavern together. The Company were very genteel, and more numerous, by much, than they were the last Time I was there. They had began Play before we came, but we soon join'd 'em, and it was not long before the Box came to me. I threw in seven Mains ; and, I believe, won above Four Hundred Pounds by the Hand, which put me into such Spirits that I accepted every Bett that was offer'd ; 'till at last, in about four Hours Play, I found my Error, and the sad Consequence of venturing so indiscreetly for all my Money was gone, to a single Half Guinea.

Enraged at this cursed Turn of Fortune, I could not bear to sit an idle Spectator, but ran Home and fetch'd the rest of my Cash ; which amounted, I believe, for I did not stand to tell it, to near Three hundred Guineas. With this Recruit I determin'd to repair my Loss, or give myself up to Destruction at once. I sat down to Play, but was in such Confusion that I scarce knew what Stakes I made ; what little Judgment I had was  
quite

was quite sunk in Passion. — In this Condition I soon empty'd my Purse, Three Hours reduc'd me to the melancholy Possession of a single Guinea only.

This Run of ill Luck so distracted me, that I was quite blind to all the Consequences my Loss of Money would bring me into, but I was not without Hopes of retrieving all yet; and, in order to enable me to proceed in this pernicious Purpose, I pledg'd my Watch (that beautiful Watch *La Mour* gave me) to a Foreigner in the Company for Fifty Guineas, who seem'd glad to advance that Sum upon it, and promis'd it should be return'd, upon the Payment of the Money.

With this Sum I play'd on 'till Two o'Clock in the Morning, and was upwards of an hundred Guineas Winner since I had pledg'd my Watch. The Company now began to draw off; and, in a few Minutes, there were but five of us left. I had now Thoughts of going Home, but resolv'd to take my Watch with me; for it was not only worth a great deal more than I had borrow'd upon it, but I had a particular Esteem for it, for the sake of the Lady who gave it me.

The Foreigner, who was call'd by the Company, MARQUIS, upon my demanding my Watch, look'd very nicely at it; and then told me, He would make the Money  
up



up a Hundred Guineas, if I would let him keep it: Adding, He never saw a finer Piece of Work, and he should be glad to have it for his own Use. I told him, I should be proud to oblige him, but that it was the Present of a Lady, whose Favour had doubled the Value of the Work. At length he took his Money, and return'd me the Watch; but, I thought, with much Reluctance.

While the Marquis and I were settling this Affair, the other three that were left had got to throwing for Fifty Guineas a Main; which I observing, had not Power to resist, still urg'd by the vain Hopes of recovering what I had lost, I join'd 'em; and, by my Example, the Marquis sat down too. We stuck to the Scheme the first three that engag'd had propos'd, that of Fifty Guineas a Main. In less than ten Minutes I was broke again, and forc'd to pledge my Watch once more to the Marquis. I played with that single Stake, and was lucky enough to win; and, before we broke up, had two Hundred and Fifty Guineas in my Pocket.

I would willingly have pursu'd my Fortune, but the rest declining any farther Play, I was oblig'd to give over. My first Thought was to redeem my Watch; but, to my great Surprize, the Marquis was gone.

His

His sudden disappearing, without taking any Leave, made me drop some Hints that I did not think my Watch was safe; but the Company, who knew him, spoke so much of his Honour, and gave me such Assurances that what he had promised he would abide by, that I went Home very easy in regard to that Particular; but greatly dissatisfied with the ill Fortune I had met with, for I found myself a very considerable Loser.

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## C H A P. XI.

*I visit Sambert, the odd Quarrel at Mr. Founder's. His Wife's good Nature. The melancholy News I heard from the Country.*

**N**Otwithstanding my ill Luck, I was so fully possess'd that Fortune would make me Amends, that I resolv'd to go the next Night, redeem my Watch of the Marquis, and venture the Remainder of my Cash. At the same Time I resolv'd never to engage my Watch again; but, if I wanted Money, to raise it upon my Diamond-Ring, which, tho' of equal Value, I did not esteem so much.

It was Six o'Clock in the Morning before I got Home, so I would not go into Bed, but just lay down for two Hours; and then  
drefs'd

dress'd myself and went to Mr. *Sambert's*, with an Intent to tell him my ill Fortune, and ask his Advice.—I was now willing to consult him in every Circumstance of my Life; for I thought, as I was so much esteem'd by him, his Lady, and all their Relations, that among 'em, being all People of Interest, thro' their Means, I might get into some Place, that might be a handsome Income to me for Life. These imaginary Prospects were great Consolations to me, in the most desperate of my Misfortunes.

When I came to *Sambert*, I found at least a dozen Gentlemen and Ladies at Breakfast with him, which I thought were not very agreeable to him, by the sour Countenance he seem'd to wear; so I just paid my Compliments and retir'd, without seeking for an Opportunity to speak with him in private: For I knew, in that Hurry of Company, his Answers would be very short, and not to the Purpose.

I went Home, just as my Landlord was going to Dinner. Mrs. *Founder* let me in, and civilly ask'd me to sit down; which her Husband seconded by drawing a Chair, and pushing me down into it——But *Sophy* immediately got up, took her Plate, and was running out of the Room.—“ Bless me, “ *cry'd Mrs. Founder*, where are you going, *Sophy*?—Oh, said she, in a great  
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Pet, “ only to be secure. They must have  
 “ more Courage than I, that dare venture  
 “ themselves in such Company —— With  
 these Words she clapt the Door after her,  
 and retir’d.

Mrs. *Founder* and her Husband look’d fo  
 confus’d at this Behaviour, that I could not  
 help repeating what he had formerly told  
 me, of *Sopby’s* Complaint : Protesting, at  
 the same Time, that I never had a Thought  
 against her Virtue, or spoke a Word to  
 her that might induce her to believe I had  
 any such Design. “ Well, well, *said Mr.*  
*“ Founder*, never trouble your Head about  
 “ it; perhaps she had a Mind to ravish you,  
 “ and you was not in the Humour. Fye,  
 “ fye, my Dear, *said his Wife*, how can  
 “ you talk so? I believe *Sopby* is a very  
 “ modest Woman —— I think, my dear,  
 “ *said he*, she is : But, *added he*, in a Half-  
 “ *Whisper to me*, I know you us’d to be to-  
 “ gether for Hours above, but who was up-  
 “ permost I can’t tell. It’s all Chance;  
 “ Cross or Pile, Heads or Tails, Love is a  
 “ strange Thing.

Here Mrs. *Founder* reddened to a violent  
 Degree; and to prevent my observing,  
 made an Excuse to the Beaufet, to conceal  
 her Blushes.

“ Well, Sir, *said I*, you will have your  
 “ Jest, and I commend you for it; and in-  
 “ deed this Affair ought never to be talk’d  
 “ of, but to make us merry. At

At these Words *Sophy*, who had been listening all the Time at the Door, rush'd into the Room ; and, darting her Eyes at her Uncle, said, “ No Wonder, Sir, I am treated with Contempt, when you, that should be my Guardian, turn your Care into a Jest. I am very glad to hear you make so light of your Relation's Virtue ——— For me, I don't want your Protection——— You need not watch me, Sir, I can take Care of myself———Look to the rest of your Family, there are some may take the Advantage of your heedless Jest, and return 'em to your Shame———It is not impossible——— There are more Women in the House than one. Remember, I tell you so”—— With these Words she bounc'd out, and gave the Door such a Swing, as shook the whole House.

Mr. *Founder* burst out into a loud Laugh, and cry'd —— “ Ho! ho! *Sophy's* unhing'd, and she'll unhinge all the Doors in the House to bear her Company.

Notwithstanding the odd Humour of Mr. *Founder*, that was for turning every Thing into a Jest, I could not help thinking Mrs. *Sophy* a most infamous Creature, for throwing a Hint at the Virtue of Mrs. *Founder* ; whose Innocence, Sense, and genteel Behaviour, could not deserve the least Reflection upon her Reputation. But it was his Bu-

siness to resent it, not mine ; and, as he was for making merry with her Impudence, I was not willing to alter his Temper by a grave Argument : But had she said as much to a Wife of mine, I should have been strangely tempted to have kick'd her out of Doors.

Tho' my Temper could not have borne this Insolence, not only Mr. *Founder*, but his Wife too, turn'd it off with good Nature ; and look'd upon those severe Hints only as the hasty Words of an angry Woman, that had no Meaning in her Passion. The temperate good Nature of Mrs. *Founder* was a farther Proof that, as I had always judg'd, she was a real Virtuous Woman : For any Woman, who could accuse herself of an Error in her Conduct, would have been fir'd at *Sophy's* Reflections ; and, with Rage and Fury, endeavour'd to justify her Character. But Innocence can bear, with Calmness, the hasty undigested Attacks of Baseness ; and see Falshood worry itself, in its own Frenzy.

I begg'd Pardon for the Uneasiness I had occasioned in the Family, and went to the Coffee-House, leaving Mr. *Founder* and his Wife in very good Humour ; and *Sophy*, I suppose in some dark Corner, brooding over her Rage, and hatching Revenge.

While I sat musing on the many Vicissitudes of human Life, a Gentleman in Boots,  
very



very dirty and fatigu'd, and seem'd as if he was just come off a long Journey, came in, and soon after another join'd him, and saluting him with the utmost Marks of Friendship, enter'd into the following Conversation——Says one, “ I hope all Friends at  
 “ \*\*\*\*\* are well ?” Hearing the Place of my Birth nam'd, I gave particular Attention to their Discourse——“ Our Friends are  
 “ all well, *replied the other*, but we have lost  
 “ an Acquaintance, since you and I were  
 “ there three or four Years ago.-----Who's  
 “ that ?-----Why, *continu'd he*, old Rowe,  
 “ that kept the *Bull's-Head*, is dead.-----  
 “ That's strange, *says the other*, for he was  
 “ a brave, jolly Fellow, when I was last in  
 “ the Country, and was boasting that he  
 “ had never known a Day's Sickness in his  
 “ Life.-----Yes, *says the Traveller*, but 'tis  
 “ said he broke his Heart. Don't you re-  
 “ member his Daughter *Polly*, that was  
 “ reckon'd so very handsome ? This Girl,  
 “ it seems, was debauch'd by a neighbouring  
 “ Squire, a very worthless, wild, young  
 “ Fellow, who convey'd her from her Pa-  
 “ rents ; and neither he, or she, have ever  
 “ been heard of since. This Affair so af-  
 “ fected the poor Fellow, that at length it  
 “ kill'd him ; and, as the Neighbours told  
 “ me, he died raving mad. The Mother,  
 “ unable to carry on the Business, lost all

“ her Customers, had her Goods seiz’d on,  
“ and is now in the Work-house.

It is impossible to express the Agonies this News threw me into. I was shock’d at my own Villainy, when I reflected it had ruin’d a young Virgin, kill’d her Father, and beggar’d a whole Family. I was so distracted with this horrid News, that I was strongly tempted to lay violent Hands upon my own Life. I resolv’d to go Home, lock myself up, and indulge my Melancholy ; but, before I put this frantic Design in Execution, I recollected that I might lose my Watch, if I did not attend the Meeting, as I promis’d : For tho’ this Marquis had a very good Character, I knew nothing of him ; and, as he had a great Inclination to keep my Watch, I did not know but he might, upon my not appearing, look upon it as forfeited, and refuse to restore it, if I should defer my Demand any longer. With this Consideration, I turn’d back and went directly to the Tavern ; tho’ with such Distraction in my Mind, as render’d me very unfit for the Business I was going to be engag’d in.

## C H A P. XII.

*I go to the Gaming-Table. The Marquis does not appear.—With several Natural Incidents.*

I Found the usual Set, and several others, whom I had never seen before; all deeply engag'd, and the Stakes ran very high. I was immediately complimented with a Seat, which I did not accept of; for, to my great Surprise, the Marquis was not there as I expected. His Absence seem'd to say my Watch was in Danger. Instead of joining the Company, I went down to the Master of the House, and enquir'd strictly after the Marquis, but gain'd but small Intelligence from him—All he said was—"That the Gentleman seldom fail'd of an Evening, but had not seen him that Night—That it was possible he might come yet—he did not always come to a Minute."

I waited about an Hour; and, hearing no Tidings of him, I resolv'd to go to his House, and accordingly enquir'd of the Landlord where he liv'd—But here too I fail'd; for, with his former Ease, he told me, It was not his Business to enquire where Gentlemen lodg'd. He had nothing to do with 'em, farther than his own House:

“ After they leave this, *said he*, I don’t  
“ think it Manners in me to ask where they  
“ are going.”

These Answers did not at all agree with my ruffled Temper; and I made use of some Expressions that, had the Landlord related, some of the Company would have resented: But he knew his Business better than to make Discord among his Customers, so I escap’d their Censure.

I now began to think Fortune had quite forsaken me. Every Minute brought some afflicting News, or unexpected Loss—— However, I was resolv’d to wait ’till the Company broke up; and, if the Marquis did not appear by that Time, I might fairly look upon him as a Sharper, and bid adieu to my Watch for ever.

I sat down in the Room where the Company were engag’d, but with a full Resolution not to venture a Shilling: For what with the News I had just heard of the unhappy Situation of *Polly’s* Family, and the Danger I was in of being bubbled by this Marquis, my Mind was so ruffled, that I did not look upon myself to be in a Condition to play, where all my Faculties should have their nicest Apprehension.

These were my Considerations for upwards of two Hours; during which Time I had not the least Inclination to make one at the Sport, but was contented to be a bare Spectator.

Spectator. The Friend that first introduc'd me won very largely, and often press'd me to try my Luck, but I resist'd all his Importunities. At length he came to me ; and, in a Whisper, said, " Dear *Jasper*, prithee " make a Bet or two to preserve your Reputation ; for it is whisper'd about the " Table, that you are *broke down*, and I " would convince 'em to the contrary of " that by throwing a Main, if it were but " for an Opportunity to pull out your Cash, " and satisfy 'em of their Mistake.

I was hurt to hear any such Report should prevail to my Disadvantage ; and my Pride urg'd me on to engage in Play, when my Inclinations were quite averse to it.—I immediately took my Seat ; and, instead of being cautious, push'd at all, and even provok'd the Company to make larger Stakes than were agreeable to 'em, or than they had ventur'd the foregoing Part of the Evening. In short, my Spirits were rais'd so high, by this Slur upon my Fortune, that I play'd madly, without Fear or Wit, and two or three Hours produc'd the fatal Consequence of my Indiscretion ; for, at the Expiration of that Time, I found I was not worth a single Guinea, for every Penny I had in the World I took with me to this curs'd House.

The Effect it had upon me was almost Frenzy. I sat still, quite depriv'd of Sense ; and, for some Minutes, neither heard, saw, or spoke, and I believe should have gone off in that State of Stupidity, had I not been rous'd by a fiery Gentleman at the Table, who had suffer'd equally with myself, and rose in a Fury, and dash'd the Box full in my Face ; not with Design, I really believe, to injure me, but through the Blindness of his Passion.

I was not in a Humour then to enquire into the Reason of any Thing, but was rather glad of an Opportunity of giving my stifled Anger vent. I flew at him that Instant ; and after a Blow or two on each Side, we fell to the Ground together. The Company took us up, but we no sooner felt our Legs than we seiz'd our Swords, drew 'em, and, instead of suffering ourselves to be parted by the Company, we cut at every Thing that came near us, 'till many of the Interposers were wounded. They being drove off, we had Liberty to attack each other ; which we were just going to do with such Fury, that Death, in a few Minutes, must have been the Consequence on one Side, had not one of the Waiters that Instant rush'd in, and knock'd my Adversary down ; while others, following his Example, secur'd me, and wrested my Sword from me.

A very



A very short Pause convinc'd me of my Indiscretion ; nor could I look, without Horror, upon so many People who were bleeding round me. Shock'd at what I had done, I ran down Stairs, and never stopt 'till I had reach'd my own Lodging. My Landlady was frighten'd to see me in such Confusion, without Hat, Wig, or Sword, and Part of my Cloaths torn. She immediately ask'd what was the Matter ; which I did not chuse to tell, but turn'd it off, by saying, I had been set upon by some Street-Robbers, had resisted 'em, and, with much Difficulty, got off without more Mischiefe, than the Loss of some of my Things, and a few Blows.

Mrs. *Sophy* look'd in, and, seeing me, tho' in that Condition, only turn'd up her Nose, and bounc'd away again ; which Mrs. *Founder* observ'd, and offer'd me her Assistance to my Chamber. This indeed was very necessary, for I was so fatigu'd with Rage and Struggling, that I could not easily get up Stairs by myself.

Mrs. *Founder's* Care of me, upon this Occasion, was particularly kind and tender ; for, tho' it was near Two o'Clock, she persisted in her good Nature, and would not leave me, spite of all my Solicitations, 'till she had made me some whey, and oblig'd me to drink several Bowls full. I comply'd with all she order'd, but still desir'd her to

retire

retire to Rest ; but she told me, Mr. *Founder* was not come Home, and that she should not think of Bed 'till he came in : Adding, She was sure her Husband would be much displeas'd, if she left me in that distress'd Condition, without administering to my Relief——“ And, *said she*, as Mrs. *Sophy* is “ so inhuman to laugh at your Misfortune, “ I think it my Duty to attend you.

Though I was greatly charm'd with Mrs. *Founder*'s good Nature and Tendernefs, and could have listen'd to her, at another Time, for Hours, without being tir'd ; yet the Fatigue I had gone through, and the Potions she had given me, in a few Minutes depriv'd me of that Sense, which could now only supply me with Pain, and I fell into a profound Sleep.

I believe I should not have wak'd 'till the Day had pass'd, had I not been alarm'd by Mr. *Founder*, who came rapping at my Door ; and, upon my asking, in great Disorder (for my Mind was full of Horror) *Who's there ?* he roar'd out, in his usual Manner, Mr. Buckler, *do you know what I have done for you ? What ?* reply'd I, in Confusion (still thinking of some Consequence from my last Night's Rashness, which he had deferr'd, by an Answer at the Door, without letting any Body know I was at Home) “ Why, I'll tell you, *said he* ; its a “ very good Thing I assure you.——What ! “ what

“ what is it ?” answer’d I, getting half out of Bed impatiently.—“ Why I told my Wife, you are like a Watchman ; for you never knock at the Door, ’till all the Family are in Bed.” This he said with a great Laugh ; which I did not give him leave to finish, before I roar’d out—“ A Curse upon your Nonsense ; I believe the Devil has got into the People, for what with the Impudence of *Sophy*, and the Impertinent, stupid Jests of her Uncle, a Man can’t rest Night or Day”—And, without considering Mr. *Founder* knew nothing of my Misfortunes, I could not help bawling after him—“ Do you do this to insult me ? Am I in a Condition for Puns and Fooleries ?”

These Words, utter’d with an uncommon Fury, so frighten’d Mr. *Founder*, that, without making any Reply, he crept down Stairs, and left me to meditate on my unhappy Condition.

## C H A P. XIII.

*A Stranger visits me. His genteel Behaviour and Message.*

IT is impossible to describe the miserable Situation of my Mind. My Money all gone, my Watch stolen, for I could  
call

call it no better, and myself engag'd in an Affair that gave me strong Apprehensions would produce much Trouble ; for I did not doubt, but the Gentlemen I had wounded for their good-natur'd Interposition, would either seek for Revenge on my Person or Fortune, either of which would involve me in unavoidable Ruin : Besides, the Marquis's Behaviour made me begin to think the Company, notwithstanding their fine Appearance, to be no better than a Set of Gamblers, who would stop at nothing to defend one another, and ruin their Opponents.

While I was rack'd with these Imaginations, Mrs. *Founder* came up ; and, knocking softly at the Door, told me a Gentleman, very finely dress'd, was below, and desir'd to speak to me. This Message alarm'd me greatly ; however, I was determin'd to go down and face the Person, let his Errand be what it would.

In the Parlour I found a Gentleman, as my Landlady had inform'd me, of a very graceful Person, and well dress'd ; who, upon my Appearance, immediately got up, and made several genteel Salutations. Mrs. *Founder* left us, and I sat down with him to hear his Errand.

Before he open'd, he took a very particular Survey of me, as if he seem'd doubtful whether he had not mistook the  
Person

Person he wanted. As I could not recollect I had ever seen him before, this Stranger's Behaviour a little surpriz'd me; but he soon reliev'd me, by beginning in the following Conversation.

"Pray, Sir," said he, "are you in the  
"Army? No, Sir," reply'd I, "I have  
"not the good Fortune to belong to that  
"honourable Society. I beg your Pardon,"  
continu'd he, "I thought you had, and  
"that I had been in Company with you,  
"about six Months ago." I still reply'd  
in the Negative; at which he again ran  
his Eye over me, from Top to Bottom,  
still doubting whether I was the Person  
he wanted.—After remaining silent some  
Minutes, he began again—"Sir, if I  
"am mistaken, I hope you'll pardon me;  
"but if you will answer me two or three  
"Questions, you'll give me great Satisfac-  
"tion.—Sir," said I, a little alarm'd,  
"I don't know a Question that you, or  
"any Man can ask, that I shall be either  
"afraid, or ashamed to answer." He re-  
ply'd, "I dare swear, Sir, you have no  
"Cause, and therefore shall, without farther  
"Ceremony, begin my Enquiries.—  
"Pray, Sir," said he, "had not you a  
"Dispute, some little Time ago, with  
"three or four Gentlemen, in a Coffee-  
"House near *Covent-Garden*? Yes," re-  
ply'd I hastily, "and was treated very ill  
"by

“ by ’em. I beg,” continu’d he, “ that  
“ you will be calm ; and, as it may be  
“ of use to yourself, as well as me, you  
“ would give me, upon your Honour, the  
“ Particulars of that Affair, as well as you  
“ can recollect ’em.” I comply’d, and  
told every Circumstance of the Quarrel,  
the Challenge, and the Disappointment I  
met with in *Hyde-Park*.

When I had done, the Stranger said  
——“ Sir, I esteem your Honour equal  
“ with your Courage : The last I had a  
“ Proof of that Night of the Quarrel,  
“ and the other you have now convinc’d  
“ me of ; for, to my own Knowledge,  
“ you have not deliver’d one single Arti-  
“ cle in the whole Action but what is strict-  
“ ly true.”

Here I interrupted him, saying, “ Pray  
“ was you one of the Parties concern’d ?  
“ No, upon my Honour,” reply’d he,  
“ but was in the same House at the Time,  
“ and an Eye-Witness to the whole Af-  
“ fair, except what you tell about *Hyde-*  
“ *Park* ; but, as I know the other to be  
“ Fact, I have not the least Doubt con-  
“ cerning that Particular.——Since, Sir,”  
said I, “ you seem to rely so firmly upon  
“ my Honour, I hope you’ll favour me  
“ with your Name, and how you came  
“ concern’d in a Quarrel, not your own,  
“ that happen’d so long ago, as to be so  
“ particular



“ particular in your Enquiries ? Sir,” answer’d he, “ as you have been open and ingenuous with me, I’ll not be behind Hand, but fairly tell you the whole Fact.

“ The Gentleman you challeng’d is of noble Birth and great Fortune, and not deficient in Learning, Understanding and Bravery ; but so great a Slave to Wine and Women, that he frequently forfeits the Reputation of all his Virtues to the Indulgence of those two Vices, Whoring and Drinking. In one of those debauch’d Hours you met with him ; and, tho’ he was almost senseless at the Time, he had the next Day when he wak’d, which was Two o’Clock, Recollection enough to remember, in Part, what had happen’d. He sent for his Friends, who, being all as much overcome with Liquor as himself, could not assist his Enquiries in the least. He then curs’d his Companions, who could admit him to accept a Challenge, and not have Regard enough to his Honour, knowing his Condition, to remind him of the Appointment ; swore he would never rest, ’till he had seen his Antagonist, and either receiv’d or given Satisfaction, according on which Side the Offence lay.”

Here I interrupted him ; saying, “ I assure you, Sir, I have been no less inquisitive

“quisitive after him ; but, as I knew  
 “neither his Name, or who he was, was  
 “forc’d to put up the Affront in a Man-  
 “ner not usual to me.”

I was oblig’d to say this, to keep up the Stranger’s Opinion of my Consequence: For tho’ I never did make any such Enquiries as I said, yet it was not the Fear of the Engagement, but of the Consequences that might have attended it ; for I well knew my Circumstances were not good enough to support me in *Newgate*, or manage a Trial at the *Old-Baily*.

“Sir,” continu’d the Stranger, “I am  
 “not come to enlarge upon my Lord’s  
 “Bravery (for such he is) nor to lessen  
 “yours, but to seek an honourable Re-  
 “concilement on both Sides.—How I  
 “came to be employ’d in this Errand,  
 “is owing to the Woman who keeps the  
 “House where you quarrell’d. She in-  
 “form’d my Lord, upon his Enquiries  
 “after you, that Mr. *Beaumien* (for that’s  
 “my Name) saw all the Transaction :  
 “Upon which he sent for me, and de-  
 “sir’d me, as I said I should know you  
 “again if I met you, to find you out,  
 “and see whether you would tell the Sto-  
 “ry in the same Manner as I had before  
 “related it to him, for he seem’d to  
 “doubt my Account ; saying, It was im-  
 “possible for him to be guilty of such un-  
 “parallel’d

“ parallel’d Brutality : But if you could be  
“ found, and your Account agreed with  
“ mine, he should then believe the Whole,  
“ and make the best Satisfaction in his  
“ Power. To which End,” continu’d he,  
“ I beg you will meet my Lord, and the  
“ rest of the Gentlemen concern’d, To-  
“ night at Eight o’Clock, at the *Cardigan-*  
“ *Head, Charing-Cross*, where you shall find  
“ a Reception equal to your gallant Beha-  
“ viour.”——I promis’d to attend, as he  
desir’d. Mr. *Beaumien* seem’d greatly pleas’d  
with my ready Compliance ; and after ma-  
ny Protestations of his Friendship to me,  
we parted.

Mr. *Beaumien* was no sooner gone, than a  
thousand various Thoughts rose in my  
Mind concerning this Message. The Sto-  
ry he had told me, indeed, seem’d plausi-  
ble, and my Lord might be the Man of  
Honour he had represented ; and, if so, this  
Adventure might turn to my Advantage,  
by engaging a Person of his Quality in my  
Interest, who doubtless had Power sufficient  
to serve me greatly in my present Condi-  
tion.——On the other Hand, I consider’d  
him as a debauch’d Drunkard and a Cow-  
ard ; and, where those Vices have Root,  
there are seldom any good Fruits to be  
gather’d——“ Who knows,” said I to my-  
self, “ but my Lord and his Associates,  
“ fir’d with the gallant Defence I had made  
“ against

“ against ’em, have entertain’d a Spirit of  
 “ Revenge, and laid this Scheme to draw  
 “ me into their Power, and then treat  
 “ me at their Pleasure ?”

Notwithstanding these Apprehensions, I resolv’d to be punctual to my Appointment. I had an honest Cause, a good Sword by my Side, and an able Arm and Heart to employ it. In these I trusted, and I determin’d to employ ’em to the last Drop of my Blood, rather than suffer the least Insult or ill Treatment.

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#### C H A P. XIV.

*The odd Manner I was attack’d. The Reason of it. A most perplexing Affair.*

I Dress’d myself about Six o’Clock, in order to go to the Appointment I had made with Mr. *Beaumien*; but just as I was stepping into a Chair at the Door, three or four ill-looking Fellows laid hold of me, and told me they had a Warrant against me, and that I must go with ’em. It immediately struck into my Head, that it was an Action from some of the Parties I had attack’d the Night before; but, upon Enquiry, to my great Surprize, they told me it was a Writ for Six Hundred Pounds.—“ Certainly,  
*reply’d*

reply'd I, " you have mistaken your Man,  
" for I don't owe a Shilling to any Person  
" living : " Upon which the Officer took  
out a Slip of Parchment ; and, looking  
over it, said, " Pray, Sir, don't you know  
" Mrs. *La Mour* ?—— " The Name  
was like a Cannon to me. I thought I  
should have dropt down at the Sound. I  
was so confus'd, that I had not Power to  
answer *Yes*, or *No* ; and the Officers, seeing  
me pause so long, said, " Come, Sir, we  
" had better go to some Tavern, and there  
" you may have Leisure to recollect your-  
" self."

I begg'd I might go in the Chair, for, as  
I was finely dress'd, I should have made but  
an odd Figure with the dirty Bailiff's Fol-  
lowers for my Equipage. They consented  
to what I desir'd ; and, with a Guard of two  
Officers before my Chair and two behind,  
I was conducted to a Tavern in the *Strand*.

I can't help observing here, that while  
the Officers and I were parlying at the Door,  
Mrs. *Sophy*, whose Curiosity the Noise had  
brought out, after listening to all was said,  
burst out into a loud Laugh, cry'd out, " I  
" am glad of this ! this is pure ! " and  
then slapt the Door as hard as she could drive  
it——The ill Nature of this Creature  
was so outrageous, that I could not help re-  
marking her Behaviour upon this Occa-  
sion.

The

The Conversation here was very short. We had no sooner sat down, than a Bottle of Wine was call'd for; which being brought in, the Officer drank a Bumper off, and then address'd himself to me, saying, "Well, Sir, you see we have treated you like a Gentleman; but, it will grow late ——— what do you propose? will you send for Bail? or will you go to my House?" I took some Time before I reply'd, for indeed my Spirits were so hurry'd, and my whole Frame was in such Confusion, that I could not immediately resolve what to say or do.

At length, after weighing every Circumstance in the best Manner my Perplexity would let me, I wrote a Note to Mr. *Founder*, desiring to see him upon earnest Business as soon as possible. One of my *Black-Guards* undertook the Part of Porter, and went away with it directly.

It was not long before he return'd with a little Bit of Paper, in which I read the following Words:

Mr. BUCKLER,

" **A**S I understand what happen'd to you  
 " a little while ago at my Door, I  
 " can partly guess what your earnest Business is with me now: But as I am a retir'd Man, and don't love Trouble, I always



“ ways turn my *Bum* upon the Law, and  
“ therefore can’t let you see my *Face* To-  
“ night, having other Matters in Hand.

“ Yours, &c.”

By this whimsical, yet abrupt Answer, I found Mrs. *Sophy*, who over-heard the Officers, had been communicating her Sentiments to her Uncle, and had prevented his coming to my Assistance, which otherwise I dare swear, from his good-natur’d Disposition, he would willingly have done.

It now grew near Eleven o’Clock, so I gave over all Thoughts of getting releas’d that Night, and resolv’d to go with the Officer to his House, who had promis’d me great Accommodations, and stay there ’till the Morning; and then send a proper Account of my Misfortune to *Sambert*, whose Friendship I had good Reason to rely on.

I was soon conducted to my Prison; where I had no sooner enter’d, than the Table was spread, a Piece of cold Beef set out, two or three Bottles of different Wines, and a Bowl of Punch made their Appearance, to partake of which all the People in the House were invited; and such a Set of Ragamuffins they were, that I could not help thinking myself in some foreign Country,

try, decoy'd into a private Place, and beset with Robbers and Murderers.

Among these Wretches was one Woman, whom Nature had made beautiful, but who had so abus'd the Goddeſs's Intentions, with Liquor and foul Phraſes, that ſhe look'd like a Monster; no more like a Woman, than a Monkey is a Man. They all fell to upon the Meat and Drink; and, to make it reſiſh, follow'd every Glaſs with Half a Dozen unheard of Oaths and Curſes. I ſat with this diſſolute, unhappy Gang, 'till One o'Clock. But why do I ſay unhappy? for, tho' they were all Priſoners, without a Shilling in their Pockets, and to be carried to Jail the next Day, there was more Mirth and Jollity about 'em (in their irregular Way) than is often ſeen in the Behaviour of the moſt Opulent and Succeſſful. Diſtreſs had done its worſt, and they ſeem'd prepar'd to meet all Diſaſters with a Smile, and make a Jeſt of Fortune. This was not my Caſe; I was but a Novice in the Order, and every Moment preſented Confinement, Poverty, and Contempt to me, in ſuch ſhocking Lights, that I now felt more Miſery, thro' Apprehenſion, than Reality could inflict.

Upon my mentioning Bed, a Bill was brought, which amounted to Thirty-two Shillings. I expected every one would contribute; but, in my Diſcourſe, I had unluckily

luckily observ'd, I never was in an Officer's House before; which all the Company repeated upon the Appearance of the Bill, and they insisted I should pay (according to the Rules of the House) the whole Expence, by Way of Footing, as they call'd it.

I should not have valu'd paying the Money, had I been Master of it; but my Finances were now so low, that I was not able to discharge the Reckoning. This greatly shock'd me; for I was asham'd to let those Wretches see a Man dress'd as I was, without two or three Guineas in his Pocket: However, I took the Officer aside, told him I was out of Cash; but, at the same Time, shew'd him my Ring, and promis'd to raise Money upon it in the Morning, and answer his Demand. He was well satisfy'd with the Promise, and shew'd me into what he call'd his best Room; but, to me, it appear'd more like a Hog-stye, than a Bed-chamber.

## C H A P. XV.

*My uneasy Mind. Sambert's Behaviour. I have an Interview with La Mour. The Cause of her arresting me.*

**T**HIS Retreat, bad as it was, afforded me an Opportunity of reflecting by myself, and giving vent to the Agony of Mind I was in.——What most confounded me, was, *La Mour's* severe Treatment of me, when we had so lately met upon such friendly Terms, and parted with reviving Love on each Side, rather than Enmity.

Here I again begun to censure Mrs. *Parrot*, by whose wicked Persuasions, or vile Falshoods, *La Mour* had been rous'd to drive me into this Calamity. But this was all Conjecture, and I determin'd to write a Letter to *La Mour* in the Morning, earnestly intreating her to give me a Meeting and let me know what Provocation I could have given her for this severe Treatment.——Besides, it struck into my Head, she could have no legal Demand upon me; for tho' I was sensible I had had more than the Value of what the Writ demanded, yet as I always receiv'd it as Presents, and of her own offering, without any Request or Hint

Hint from me, she could not sue for what was so voluntarily given.

Early in the Morning I call'd for Pen, Ink and Paper, and wrote two Letters, one to *La Mour*, and the other to *Sambert*; acquainting him with my unhappy Situation, and requesting his Presence to advise me how to behave in this unfortunate Dilemma. While a Messenger went with these, the Officer went out, and borrow'd Ten Guineas upon my Ring; for I found I was not to expect any Favour in this House, without Money.

I had scarce receiv'd my Cash, and paid the Demands of the House, before my Messenger return'd from *Sambert* and *La Mour*. *Sambert* sent Word he would see me in the Afternoon; but *La Mour* reply'd, [she knew no such Person,, and return'd the Letter: Adding to the Porter, " Friend, you " have mistaken the Person; I am sorry I " open'd the Letter. You had better re- " turn, and get clearer Instructions."

I too plainly understood the Meaning of this affected Ignorance; which was, That she was determin'd not to abate one Tittle of her Demand, nor lay herself open to any Intercession I could make to her; so that my whole Dependance was now upon *Sambert*. I did not doubt but his Friendship would either assist me in trying the Merits

of the Cause, or supply me with Money to discharge the Action.

*Sambert* was better than his Word; for, instead of keeping me in Expectation 'till the Afternoon, in less than two Hours he came to me. I withdrew with him into a private Room, and there open'd the whole Affair from first to last——in what Manner I had receiv'd the valuable Things from *La Mour*; how long I had parted from her; and did not even conceal my indiscreet Behaviour at Play, but gave him a full Account of all my Misfortunes.

He heard me with great Attention; and, after pausing a Minute or two, he said;  
 “ Why, *Jasper*, if this Woman insists upon it, she can oblige you to pay every  
 “ Farthing of the Money: For, as you  
 “ have no Deed of Gift under her Hand,  
 “ she may change her Mind; and tho'  
 “ when she gave the Things, she might  
 “ mean them as Presents, yet she can now  
 “ make it into a Debt, and recover the full  
 “ Value.”

As this was his Opinion, I said, “ Why  
 “ then, dear *Sambert*, how miserable is my  
 “ Situation? I have no Prospect but a  
 “ Goal; where, in all Likelihood, I shall  
 “ perish for Want, for I have no Money,  
 “ and very few valuable Things to raise  
 “ any upon.——No, *said he*, I hope it  
 “ will not go so hard with you neither. You  
 “ say



“ say this *La Mour* was once fond of you ;  
“ if so, a Relation of your Condition to  
“ her will, doubtless, move her to Com-  
“ passion, and give you Time to raise the  
“ Sum.” I then told him how hopeless  
that Project was, since she had not only  
deny’d to see me, but even refus’d to ac-  
knowledge me her Acquaintance.

Here we both remain’d silent for some  
Time——At length *Sambert* rose ; and,  
taking his Hat and Cane off the Table,  
said——“ *Jasper*, don’t be uneasy ; some-  
“ thing may yet be done in your Behalf.  
“ I’ll consider of the Affair, and you shall  
“ hear from me.” With these Words he  
shook me by the Hand, and went away.

I thought his hasty Parting was a little  
odd ; besides, methought his Face did not  
carry that friendly Smile towards me, that  
it was us’d to do. I saw a Hurry in his  
Looks, that seem’d to say, “ I am sorry  
“ I came, and I should be glad to get  
“ away, lest *Jasper* should ask me some-  
“ thing that I don’t care to comply with.”  
But this, upon Recollection, I look’d upon  
as only Imagination, arising from the me-  
lancholy Mode of my Mind. The Unhap-  
py are too apt to add fancy’d Miseries to  
their real ones, and make Misfortunes  
greater than they are. I shook off, as well  
as I could, these dull Reflections ; and

chear'd myself with *Sambert's* last Words, which seem'd to promise Relief.

While I was in this Situation, the Officer came in ; and, with a blunt Look, said——“ Well, Sir, what have you determin'd ? will you give Bail, or pay the Debt, for I can't answer keeping you here after this Night ; so I would have you make an End of the Affair as soon as possible.” I reply'd, my Friend would soon return, and then I did not doubt but proper Satisfaction would be made.

In this uneasy State of Mind I sat 'till Eight o'Clock, without hearing any Thing from *Sambert*, as I expected. About this Time we were alarm'd with a violent Knocking at the Door. My Heart jump'd at the Sound, for I did not doubt but it was my Friend come to my Assistance. The Door being open'd, who should bounce in but *La Mour*.

I saw by her Countenance, that uncommon Fury was in her Heart. She sat down upon a Chair over-against me ; and, when I rose to address her, she burst out into a Torrent of Tears, and cry'd——“ O you base Villain ! you have undone ! you have ruin'd me !” Surpriz'd at this unjust, unexpected Charge, I stood mute for some Minutes ; while she wrung her Hands, beat her Breast, tore her Hair, and shew'd all the Marks of the greatest Agony.

At

At last I recover'd my Speech, and said,  
 " Good Heavens, Madam ! what do you  
 " mean ? These Transports should be  
 " mine ; these Reproaches yours. Have  
 " you not pull'd me from Liberty, from  
 " Pleasure ? And for what ? What Base-  
 " ness have I been guilty of, that could de-  
 " serve such severe Punishment ? Nay,  
 " *continu'd I*, to distress me, you have dis-  
 " grac'd your own Honour and Benevo-  
 " lence, by calling upon me in this abrupt  
 " Manner, without the least previous De-  
 " mand, to pay for Things, and repay Mo-  
 " ney, that I look'd upon flow'd only from  
 " your good Nature ; and never, as I  
 " thought, requir'd any Return, but a  
 " grateful Acknowledgment of your Fa-  
 " vours.

" Favours ! *reply'd she*, yes, you have  
 " shewn your Gratitude, by making Part of  
 " those Favours, the Witness of my Fol-  
 " ly ; and, by that Evidence, compleated  
 " my Destruction. What do you mean ? *said*  
 " *I, with Heat* ; some Villain has told you  
 " a Piece of Falshood ; some Bosom-  
 " Friend, like Mrs. Parrot, has instill'd a  
 " poisonous Lie into your Ear, and you  
 " have not Confidence enough in me, to  
 " doubt the Truth, even 'till you had en-  
 " quir'd into it.--Falshood ! *answer'd she*, is  
 " this a Falshood ! (*Here she produc'd the*  
 " *Watch I had pledg'd to the Marquis*)

“ Have you not put this into the Hands of  
“ him who was my only Friend ? Have  
“ you not given him this to prove my Fol-  
“ ly, and your own Ingratitude ; and made  
“ my Ruin the Consequence of my un-  
“ guarded Love for you ?”

Still I was in the Dark—— I acknow-  
ledg’d I had parted with the Watch ; told  
her how I parted with it ; own’d the Folly  
of my Gaming ; but still declar’d myself  
innocent of any Crime, more than rashly  
parting with a Trinket she gave me in the  
warm Hours of Love, as a Token of her  
Affection.

Spite of all my Apologies, Excuses, and  
Confessions, *La Mour* still went on like one  
distracted ; and, in the Transports of her  
Grief, discover’d a Secret that I had hither-  
to been ignorant of—— Which was, That  
she was in Keeping ; that all the Ceremony  
she had us’d when we parted, about her Re-  
lations, her Reputation, and the Cautions  
she had given me never to come near her  
House, proceeded only from Fear, lest her  
Keeper should discover me ; and that this  
Marquis, to whom I had pledg’d my  
Watch, was the very Man, from whose  
Knowledge she took such Pains to conceal  
me, and who had presented her some Time  
before with that very Trinket.

I had

I had no sooner discover'd this surprizing Truth, than I fell on my Knees, own'd the involuntary Guilt, and offer'd any Satisfaction in my Power to atone for the Mistake: but *La Mour*, instead of being pacified by my Submissions, grew more enrag'd, and at once declar'd the Villainy of the Marquis; for, bursting with Rage, she cry'd—  
 “ How can you dare to offer a Vindication  
 “ of yourself? when this Friend, this on-  
 “ ly Friend, on whom my whole Happi-  
 “ ness depended, told me, That you not  
 “ only parted with the Watch, but with  
 “ Contempt deliver'd it; saying, *'Twas*  
*given me by a foolish Woman, whose Igno-*  
*rance and Pride had sacrific'd her Riches to a*  
*few false Caresses.*

This Charge I absolutely deny'd, and swore I would never rest 'till I had found the infamous Marquis, and make him own the Falshood of his Aspersions, or punish him as his Baseness deserv'd.

*La Mour* still insisted upon it, that what he had told her was Truth: Adding, She knew his Honour and generous Heart too well, to doubt his Veracity in a Point that so nearly concern'd her Peace and Welfare. I offer'd all the Arguments in my Power to bring her to Reason, but in vain: The more I pleaded my Innocence, the more she insisted upon my Baseness; at length, without listening to any Proposal I could

make concerning my Enlargement, she fell upon her Knees, and wish'd the most bitter Curses on herself, if she did not pursue me to the last Point of Destruction; then rising, like one distracted with Passion, she flew out of the House, still crying, *Revenge! Revenge!*

She was no sooner gone, than I survey'd my Condition in the most dismal Light. I found it was impossible to soften *La Mour*, and as impossible to raise Money to discharge the Debt, unless *Sambert's* Friendship should extend so far, and had little Reason to hope that; for tho' at parting his Words promis'd some Relief, his Looks methought had not that Warmth in 'em, that a Man might expect from a Companion and Friend. My Suspicions were but too true, for *Sambert* never sent, or came any more that Night; and when I wrote to him the next Morning, Word was brought me, that he went out of Town the Day before, which plainly shew'd he never intended to trouble himself any more about the Business.



## C H A P. XVI.

*I go to the Fleet——The Acquaintance I  
made there, &c.*

**A**LL Hopes of Liberty being expir'd, I call'd for the Officer, and ask'd him what must be done. He told me, in his blunt Manner, That tho' he was sorry for my Misfortunes, he could not assist me; that as I could not findout a Method to compromise the Affair, he must deliver me up to the *Fleet* : Adding, That I might have a good Lodging there, and as handsome Entertainment as in any Tavern in Town.

I begg'd him to let me stay 'till the Evening, not being willing to have the Neighbours witness of my Disgrace. He consented, and I retir'd to my Chamber to indulge my melancholy Reflections, and lament my miserable State.

A thousand vexatious Incidents rose in my Mind : Nor was my Anger short of my Misfortunes ; for, in the Midst of all my Troubles, nothing stuck closer to me, than my being debarr'd of Liberty, and prevented from seeking Satisfaction of that infamous Marquis ; who had not only couzen'd me of my Watch, but had, by his unheard-  
of

of Falshoods, reduc'd me to this terrible Situation.

In the Midst of these Reflections, Mr. *Beaumien* came into my Mind, whom the Arrest had made me disappoint at the Tavern, that Night I was secur'd. This gave me fresh Uneasiness—— This was another Stab to my Reputation ; for I could not but think, that they would impute my Absence either to Cowardice, or to my having related the Quarrel to my Lord's Dishonour falsly, and was afraid to meet those who could detect me in the Story.

The only Method I could take to clear myself in this, was to write to Mr. *Beaumien*, to acquaint him with the Reason of my Absence. I did so, and sent it to be left at the Tavern where we were to have met two Nights before. I also desir'd him, in this Epistle, to convince himself of the Truth of what I had said, by calling upon me in the *Fleet*, whither the Officer was just then going to conduct me : Adding, That if my Lord had an Inclination to see me, his Lordship must condescend to meet me there ; for as my Debt was large, I had no Prospect of a speedy Enlargement.

By that Time I had settled these Affairs, my Time was come to leave the Officer's House. I obey'd his Summons, and was determin'd to meet my Fate with a Resolution.

tion becoming the other Actions of my Life.

I no sooner arriv'd, than all the Inhabitants of this bounded Kingdom came to survey me ; for I was finely dress'd, having never sent for any Cloaths since I was secur'd, and therefore had those on in which I intended to meet my Lord and Mr. *Beau-mien*.

After paying the proper Fees, and bestowing something upon the poorer Sort of Prisoners, I was shewn into my Room ; where they all left me at Liberty to enjoy as much Pleasure as the Bounds of the Prison and my own Reflections would permit.

I was that Night invited to a Club at the Coffee-House, where the better Sort of the Prisoners met once a Week ; and indeed I never saw a more chearful Society in my Life. Many of 'em told their Misfortunes, and diverted themselves and their Companions, by laughing at their Miseries. A Gentleman that sat next me was particularly merry ; indeed so much, that tho' I was a Stranger to him, I could not help saying, " I doubt not, Sir, but we shall soon lose  
" your Company ; for, by your Gaiety, I  
" hope the Time of your Enlargement is  
" drawing near.

" Quite the reverse, I'll assure you, Sir,  
" *answer'd he*. I believe I am secur'd for  
" Life ; nor does it give me a Moment's  
" Concern.

“ Concern. My Ease of Mind proceeds  
“ from the lucky Thought I had in my  
“ more fortunate Days. Sir, *said I*, if it  
“ is not a Secret, I should be glad to be  
“ acquainted with the Incident that makes  
“ you so happy in this Place of Confinement ? I’ll tell you, Sir, *said he*, I was  
“ worth Nine Thousand Pounds, which  
“ were left me by a Grandmother, out of  
“ my Father’s Power, and exclusive of  
“ what I might expect from his Bounty. I  
“ fell in Love with a pretty Woman, but  
“ not of equal Rank with my Family.  
“ The Affair came to my Father’s Ears ;  
“ who sent for me, and told me, if I did  
“ not give over all Thoughts of that Girl,  
“ he would not look on me as his Son.  
“ Alas ! my Passion was too violent to be  
“ controul’d by Duty. Notwithstanding  
“ his Commands, I resolv’d to settle a  
“ Jointure of Three Thousand Pounds upon  
“ her and marry her, throw the rest of  
“ my Money into Trade, and depend only  
“ upon that to make me happy.

“ I compleated my Scheme, and my  
“ Father immediately disown’d me. For  
“ some Time I went on very greatly, and  
“ my Fortune encreas’d every Hour. Encourag’d by this Success, I ventur’d into  
“ a larger Branch of Business : but here  
“ Fortune forsook me, and in eighteen  
“ Months I became a Bankrupt ; and, by  
the

“ the ill-natur’d Obstinacy of some of my  
“ Creditors, thrown into this Place :  
“ Which would be Torture indeed, had  
“ I not the Pleasure of knowing my Wife’s  
“ Jointure is sufficient to support herself  
“ and my two Children, and allow me  
“ some little Matters to comfort me in my  
“ Confinement.—I have the Pleasure of  
“ seeing ’em once or twice a Week ; and,  
“ in Transport of their Happiness, forget  
“ my own Misfortunes.”

By that Time Mr. *Merchant* (for so I shall call him) had ended his Story, it grew late ; and both he and I paid our Reckoning, and retir’d to our different Chambers.

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## C H A P. XVII.

*Mr. Beaumien and my Lord visit me in Prison. Our Difference ended. — Mr. Founder’s Behaviour, &c.*

**T**H E next Morning I began to be reconciled to my Fortune. The Company were agreeable, the Lodging good, and my Sleep was better than any I had enjoy’d for a Week past. I went to Breakfast in the Coffee-House, where most of our Club were assembled ; and we laugh’d, talk’d,

talk'd, read the Papers, and gave our Opinions of the political Occurrences, with as much Ease as any Set of honest *Britons*, in the full Possession of their native Freedom.

We had no sooner ended our Morning's Conversation, than I wrote a Letter to Mr. *Founder*, desiring him to send my Cloaths, Linnen, and what else belong'd to me, to the *Fleet*; telling him, at the same Time, I had no farther Occasion for his Lodgings: And, as I was two Weeks in Arrear with him, if he would let me have a Receipt in full, the Messenger should bring him the Money.

This Affair being settled, I retir'd to my Chamber; but had not been long there before a Message was brought, that two or three Gentlemen, in the Coffee-Room, desir'd to speak with me. My Heart leap'd at the Sound; for it immediately struck me, it was *Sambert*, and some Friends, come to my Relief. Before I could get down Stairs, I repented all the hard Thoughts I had entertain'd of him, and believ'd it was Business only that prevented his coming to me.

By this Time I got into the Coffee-Room. My Eyes, in a Moment, ran over the whole Company; but, to my great Disappointment, saw no *Sambert* there. While I was examining every Face, Mr. *Beaumien* came up; and, taking a Gentleman by the Hand



Hand said——“ My Lord, I believe,  
“ if Mr. *Buckler* pleases, we had better re-  
“ tire into a private Room.”

We were immediately shewn one ; where  
we were no sooner seated, than Mr. *Beau-  
mien* open'd the Conversation, by expressing  
his Concern for my Situation, wishing some  
lucky Accident might relieve me.——  
My Lord then got up ; and, in the most  
complaisant Manner, told me, He had been  
convinc'd by his Friends that he had greatly  
wrong'd me, and injur'd his own Honour,  
by avoiding the Reparation I had so brave-  
ly demanded from him : Saying moreover,  
in these Words ; “ Sir, I do assure you,  
“ whatever ill Treatment you might receive  
“ from me, it proceeded only from the  
“ Heat of Wine ; and the Neglect I shew'd  
“ in meeting you at the Place appointed,  
“ was owing to the same Cause : And let  
“ me upon my Honour declare, as the  
“ first did not spring from Malice, I hope  
“ you will have good Nature enough to be-  
“ lieve the latter was not begot of Fear ;  
“ but all from the Liquor, which first made  
“ me mad enough to affront, and then too  
“ stupid to satisfy you.”

I told him all he said I believ'd : And  
begg'd he would, in order to make us both  
easy, talk of it no farther ; but look upon  
the Whole as a drunken Frolick, not worth  
our Remembrance.

It

It would be too tedious to repeat all the civil Things that were said upon this Occasion : Let it suffice, that my Lord and his Friends stay'd Dinner with me ; which was order'd, in the most elegant Manner, by his Lordship. When we parted, my Lord, after declaring how much it would rejoice him to see me at Liberty, shook me by the Hand, and, in a Whisper, told me where to direct to him ; and, if at any pressing Occasion, I wanted a Friend, I should be sure to find one at his House.

It may perhaps surprize my Readers, why, after so kind an Offer, I did not ask my Lord then to do me some instant Service ; and if I had, I believe, I should have succeeded ; but, in our Conversation at Dinner, I had made light of my Misfortune ; and told 'em, it was a disputed Point, which I did not doubt would be soon determin'd in my Favour. Now, after this, I had too much Pride to own the worst of my Distress ; and thought it more prudent, as well as noble, to let my Lord go without any Sollicitation at this Time.

In the Afternoon my Portmanteaus came, and with them the following Letter from Mr. *Founder*.

S I R,

S I R,

**Y**OUR Things I have sent you ; and, as to what is due to me, the first Time you come my Way will be soon enough to discharge it.

*From your Friend, &c.*

I took this as a Proof of a most generous Nature in Mr. *Founder* ; for tho' the Sum was but small, it shew'd good Nature not to insist to the last Farthing, from one in my Circumstance : And I don't doubt, but he had been tempted to use the utmost Rigour by my old Friend, Mrs. *Sophy*.

I now laid by all my better Cloaths, and equipt myself for the Place I was in : besides, I did not know how soon I might be oblig'd to dispose of those Moveables for ready Cash.

The chief Thing that now made me uneasy, was my Ring, which the Officer had pawn'd for Ten Guineas only, and I knew it to be worth six Times the Money. I consulted with my new Acquaintance, Mr. *Merchant* ; who told me, He had a Friend whom he could write to, to go and see it ; and, if it was of Value, would redeem it, and dispose of it to the best Advantage for me. I desir'd he would do so ; and, at the

the same Time, I wrote a Note to the Officer; desiring, when such a Person call'd upon him, to shew him where he had pledg'd it, and go with him to redeem it.

In two Days Time the Gentleman appear'd with the Ring, which he said was worth Seventy Guineas : Adding, that he had had the Opinion of the best Judges, and could not find it was worth more. He then offer'd to return it me, for the Money he had paid the Pawn-broker ; or give me the Overplus, and keep it himself. I chose the latter ; for I had now no Regard left for the Donor, and more Occasion for the Money than the Bawble. He delivered me the Cash, and I gave him a Receipt in full, with many Thanks for the Trouble he had taken.

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### C H A P. XVIII.

*I live gayly in the Prison. My Money decays.  
I obtain a Rule for a Day. The Adventure  
I met with.*

THE Possession of this Money gave me fresh Spirits. I forgot my Situation and Misfortunes, and liv'd up to every Pleasure the Place could afford. My gay Manner of Life, and my Liberality among the Prisoners, gain'd me all their Hearts.  
Every

Every one was ready to oblige, and do me little Offices of Service; and some Women, that were Inhabitants of our Commonwealth, were not behind-hand in their Favours to me: So that I was the gay Blade of the Place, the first at all Pleasures, and the Leader of every Sport.

Three Months roll'd away in this Manner, when my Money began to shrink; and, of Course, my Spirits to flag. Again I felt my Misfortunes, pin'd for Liberty, and could not devise a Pleasure within the Prison-Walls.——I could not help discovering my Anxiety to Mr. *Merchant*; who indeed, in the most friendly Manner, gave me what Comfort he could, and set before me his own Example to encourage my Patience.

Among other Things, he told me, it was not impossible (as it was now Term-Time) with a small Sum, to gain the Confidence of the Warden, and obtain a Day's Liberty, by the Help of a Rule of Court, to seek among my Friends, and endeavour to persuade 'em to assist me, or prevail upon the Plaintiff to grant me Time for the Payment.

My Heart jump'd at the Prospect of coming Abroad; not that I had any Hopes of making the Use my Friend propos'd of it but only the dear Delight of walking freely,

freely, and partaking, for a few Hours, the unconfin'd Pleasures of the World.

Not to tire my Readers with too many Particulars, with much Ceremony, some Money, and a strict Promise to return at Night, the Warden permitted me to breathe those few Hours of Liberty.

I dress'd myself in my Best, and immediately launch'd out towards the old Scene of Pleasure, *Covent-Garden*; flew from Coffee-House to Coffee-House, look'd into every Tavern, but could not meet with one Acquaintance, 'till I came to the Coffee-House where I first learnt the curs'd Vice of Play, and to which I ow'd all my Miseries. I trembled when I went in; for it recall'd so many various Scenes of Pain and Transport, that all my Powers were in Confusion at the Sight of it.

I found here many of the old Set, all employ'd as usual: but some of 'em, I observ'd, that us'd to appear poor and shabby, were now all Tinsel and Lace; and others, that seem'd to over-look the Company, in the same Condition with the Villain *Misery*, who was still living, and flattering his Supporters.

I say, here were many that I knew, but very few that would know me. A strange Face of Forgetfulness dwelt upon the whole Company: but I beheld the *Insects* with  
Con-



Contempt; and left 'em, without the least Desire to make one in their Parties.

I once thought of visiting *Sambert*; but, when I recollected the unfriendly Treatment I had receiv'd from him, my proud Heart could not stoop to call upon him.

I went to a Tavern, and bespoke a Dinner; and then wrote a Note to Mr. *Founder*, to desire his Company (for I would not go to the House myself, for fear of meeting with that Vixen *Sophy*) but he being unluckily out of Town, I was oblig'd to sit down by myself.

From Dinner I visited the Play-House, and saw an excellent Tragedy, from which I receiv'd great Satisfaction.—This Performance recall'd the former Inclination I had of turning Actor. I determin'd to practice hard in my Confinement, and one Time or other shew my Talents upon the Stage. I was so possess'd with these Fancies, that I did not seek for any Company, after the Play was over; but retir'd to a Tavern near *Temple-Bar*, and had a Bit by myself, being willing to indulge my Imagination with these theatrical Prospects.

About Ten o'Clock I paid my Reckoning, and set forward for my Prison; for soon after that Hour I was oblig'd, by Promise, to be at Home: And I was resolv'd to be punctual the first Time, lest my Absence

sence should prevent the Warden's future Favour.

I had not gone far in *Fleet-street*, before I heard a great Out-cry for help; and, by the Assistance of a Lamp, I could perceive four or five Men, in one of the Courts, striking with Clubs at two Men, who were endeavouring to defend themselves with their Swords. I immediately ran up, my Courage forgetting my Condition, and drew in their Defence. The Fray was soon ended; for my attacking them with Resolution, the Villains retir'd. I would have pursu'd them, but one of the Gentlemen call'd out, "For Heavens sake, Sir, assist me here, for I am afraid my Friend is murder'd." I turn'd round, and saw upon the Ground a Gentleman wounded, as I thought, by the vast Quantity of Blood, very dangerously. I assisted his Friend, and, with much Difficulty, got him into the House, which was but in the next Court, where he was to lodge. A Surgeon was sent for, and the wounded Man dress'd and put to Bed. His Friend thank'd me for the Service I had done 'em, and begg'd to see me in the Morning, that the Gentleman, if he should be enough recover'd, might express his Gratitude for the timely Assistance I had given: Saying, "I am sure, Sir, you have sav'd our Lives; and, if possible, we will deserve the Favour.

We

We parted, and I ran as fast as my Legs would carry me, to keep my Word with the Warden ; and was lucky enough to get in, just as the Doors were going to be lock'd.

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## C H A P. XIX.

*The lucky Consequence of my last Night's Adventure.*

EARLY in the Morning I made a second Request to the Warden, to grant me another Day's Liberty. Methought he seem'd a little cold in his Reply, but from what Cause I knew not, unless some of the Turnkeys had told him how late I stay'd out the last Night : However, he gave me Leave, and strictly warn'd me to be at Home betimes.

I went directly to visit the Gentleman I had rescued from the Villains over Night ; and, to my great Satisfaction, found him sitting by the Parlour Fire, seemingly in good Spirits. I congratulated him upon the happy Prospect he had of a speedy Recovery.—— He told me, the Surgeons had dress'd his Wounds, and declar'd that they were very trifling, and would soon be heal'd ; at the same Time express'd the highest Sense of Gratitude, for the Assistance I had lent him——“ And, Sir, said

“ *be*, tho’ your Appearance does not seem  
 “ to want any Help from my Fortune ;  
 “ yet, if ever it should, you may be sure  
 “ any Part of my Estate shall be at your  
 “ Command.—*I was going to thank him ;*  
 “ *but he stopt me, by saying——*Don’t  
 “ think, Sir, these are only Compliments  
 “ of Course, but the honest Design of my  
 “ Heart ; and if, thro’ Modesty, or any  
 “ other Foible, you now hide any Part of  
 “ your Circumstances that Money can re-  
 “ pair, you wrong my Gratitude if you  
 “ don’t speak it plainly : *Adding, Charles*  
 “ *Banks is a Man of his Word.*”

These last Words made me start——  
 The Name of *Banks* struck me into a general Tremour——My Legs shook under me——My Tongue forgot its Office, and I stood mute with Wonder.——Mr. *Banks*, seeing my Surprise, rose from his Chair, as well as his Weakness would let him, and seem’d no less amaz’d than I was.——  
 “ What is the matter, Sir ! *said he* : What  
 “ is the Reason of this sudden Agitation !  
 “ ——*Soon as I could gain a faint Utterance,*  
 “ *I said, in broken Accents—*Is your Name  
 “ ——your Name *Banks* !——It is, an-  
 “ *swer’d he*, does that surprize you !—Have  
 “ you, *said I*, any Relations in *England* ?  
 “ Pray, Sir, be quick, and answer me ;  
 “ for, on your Answer, my Happiness de-  
 “ pends.

“ pends.— Yes, *answer'd he*, I have a  
 “ Brother in *Warwickshire*, whom I have  
 “ not seen many Years.—I have been in-  
 “ form'd, by Letters from him, that he  
 “ was formerly in the Army ; but marrying  
 “ a Fortune in the Country, he left the mi-  
 “ litary Life, and now lives retir'd with his  
 “ Wife.”

He had scarce spoke these Words, than I  
 burst out in Tears ; and, throwing myself  
 at his Feet, cry'd out, “ Thank Heaven !  
 “ that I have found a Friend indeed ! My  
 “ Uncle is return'd, and I have sav'd his  
 “ Life : sure Providence directed this, to  
 “ prove my Duty and Affection !— *The*  
 “ *good Man stood for some Time amaz'd ; at*  
 “ *length, cry'd out in Rapture*, And is it  
 “ possible you can be the Son of my Bro-  
 “ ther *Joseph* !—I am, *reply'd I*, that Son,  
 “ tho' the unhappy Out-cast of my Father's  
 “ too precipitate Anger !—How ! *said*  
 “ *he*, does not your Father do a Parent's  
 “ Part by you !—Has he discarded you !—  
 “ How do you live ?—What Employment  
 “ have you ?—Where do you inhabit ?  
 “ —Who supports you ?—Answer me,  
 “ *cry'd he*, directly ; for your last Words,  
 “ seem'd to lay such inhuman Cruelty up-  
 “ on your Father, that they should make  
 “ me blush to call him Brother.”

Here we sat down, and I began to tell  
 my unhappy Story, from the leaving of

my Father's House. When I came to that Incident of running away with the Money from the Servant, he started up with such Passion, that I was forc'd to stop, and trembled at his Anger : but he soon put a stop to my Fears, by saying, " Don't be alarm-  
 " ed ; for had you been forc'd to the great-  
 " est Baseness, I should have look'd upon  
 " the Crime, not as yours, but your Fa-  
 " ther's. ——— Inhuman Monster ! con-  
 tinu'd he—— But he recover'd his Rage  
 ——and bad me proceed.——I then went  
 on ; and, at my relating how I releas'd the  
 poor Servant, how diligently I watch'd for  
 an Opportunity to reward him, he embrac'd  
 me, and with an honest Smile, more signifi-  
 cant than Words, declar'd the Satisfaction  
 that Circumstance gave him.

As I grew towards my Misfortunes, I saw  
 the Tears gush from his Eyes ; and, when I  
 had finish'd my Story, with a full Relation  
 of my present Condition, he smil'd, and  
 catching fast hold of my Hand, said, " My  
 " dear Boy, no Jail shall confine thee. I  
 " am thy Friend, and will supply a Fa-  
 " ther's Place." Upon the Instant he rang  
 the Bell, and order'd his Servant to fetch  
 his Attorney immediately.

While the Servant was gone with the  
 Message, he vented all his Indignation a-  
 gainst my Father's Cruelty, mixt with ten-  
 der Embraces, and great Promises of Love  
 and



and Friendship towards me : Nor was I backward in expressing my Gratitude to Providence, which had rais'd me so unexpected a Friend.

When the Attorney came, my Uncle gave him Orders immediately to see Mrs. *La Mour's* Action discharg'd, and every Thing relating to the Affair set clear.

I stay'd with him all Day, for indeed he would not part with me, and lay in the same House that Night. In the Course of our Conversation, I told Mr. *Banks* how genteelly the Warden had behav'd to me ; that, to his good Nature, he ow'd the Assistance I had given him ; and I my own Happiness, in meeting with so dear a Friend.

Upon hearing my Character of the Warden, he desir'd me not to go to him till he could accompany me, which he did not doubt would be in two Days at the most ; for, as his Surgeon told him, he found his Wounds quite easy, and all he had to complain of was Weakness, which proceeded from the Loss of so much Blood. Upon the Surgeon's Visit in the Evening, he had full Liberty to go Abroad next Day, without the least Danger. Accordingly, the next Morning we dress'd, and set forward to visit the Warden : For my Uncle said, He thought a handsome Present was his due ; since the rewarding one generous Action, might encourage the Person so dispos'd to

deal his Favours in general to Mankind,  
under the same Circumstances.

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## C H A P. XX.

*We visit the Warden at the Fleet.*

WE no sooner arriv'd at the *Fleet*, than the Warden, with great Complaisance, conducted us into his own Room, and gave me Joy of my recover'd Liberty. My Uncle thank'd him for his Civility to me, and put a twenty Pound Note into his Hand; saying, "They that favour the Distrest, I always look on as my Friends."

The Warden call'd for Wine, and would have had us stay Dinner; but my Uncle excus'd himself, on Account of his being oblig'd to meet his Surgeon at Two o'Clock, to examine his Wounds.

While we were talking upon indifferent Subjects, a Message was brought in, that a Lady, in great Disorder, desir'd to see Mr. *Buckler*. I immediately guess'd who it was. *La Mour*, I suppos'd, by this had been satisfied by my Uncle's Lawyer, and had now a Mind to know the Particulars of my good Fortune. I communicated my Thoughts to my Uncle, who desired the Lady might be admitted; saying, He should

should be glad to see the Person that was once so charming, and now so cruel. Upon his Word, the Lady was brought in; who had no sooner enter'd the Room, than she fell down like one struck with Death. I ran to catch her, but her Fall was so sudden, I could not prevent her going to the Ground. My Uncle was no less surpriz'd than I, and call'd out, *Is it the Lady you expected? No!* said I, amaz'd, *quite a Stranger to me!*——The Servants brought some Drops; and, with great Difficulty, recover'd her so much, that she began to open her Eyes: Which she had no sooner done, than I saw what struck me into Stone. Motionless I stood; and, at length, bursting out into a Flood of Tears, I cry'd, with trembling Accents — *It is my Love!* — *my long lost Polly!* — I flew to her, threw myself at her Feet, and again surpriz'd her half-recover'd Senses into their former Insensibility; nor did I know myself, for some Minutes, where I was, being quite lost in the o'er-whelming Joy.

Lest a Repetition of our Raptures should prove tedious to my Readers, I shall forbear any farther Description: For these Passions are too nice to be rightly felt by any, but those whose Love is equal to ours; and who have felt so fatal a Separation, and restor'd to Happiness by so unexpected a Meeting.

When the Care of the Beholders had recover'd our Senses, I began to explain to my Uncle the Reason of my Rapture; and repeated that Part of my Story, I had before told him, of my unbounded Love for *Polly*.

In the Midst of this sudden Happiness, gazing with Transport on my Love, I found by her Dress, her Jewels, and the strange polite Alteration I saw in her Behaviour, that Fortune had smil'd upon her; and, the first Terror that struck upon my Mind was, that *Polly* was marry'd; that I had only found my Love to learn the unhappy Tidings, that I must part with her for ever: If so, this Dream of Happiness, was only to wake me to a new Scene of Misery.

While these Reflections employ'd me, I fixt my Eyes with such Tendernefs upon my *Polly*, that she took notice of it; and, with her usual Affection, taking me by the Hand, said, *My dear Jasper*. " what sudden Melancholy possesses you?—do I occasion it?  
 " —O! speak, and let me clear the Doubts  
 " that seem to alarm you."

Without farther Hesitation, I whisper'd in her Ear, " Is my dear *Polly* still disengag'd? — Is her Heart mine?—Has  
 " some Stroke of Fortune tore her from my  
 " Arms?——Answer this one Question;  
 " are you marry'd? and confirm me, with  
 " one Word, blest or miserable.——No,

" *reply'd*

“ *reply’d she aloud*, my Person is my own,  
“ but *Jasper* still commands my Heart.”  
Here we embrac’d, in Token of a mutual  
fond Affection.

My Uncle all this while sat mute ; and,  
with silent Pleasure, enjoy’d our fond En-  
dearments : Which would not have ended  
soon, had we not been interrupted by the  
Appearance of Mr. *Beaumien*, who came  
with my Lord’s Compliments, to enquire  
my Health, and know if I stood in need of  
any Assistance his Power could give me. I  
embrac’d, and thank’d him ; and, in few  
Words, told some Part of the good Fortune  
lately had beset me. He congratulated me  
upon my Happiness, assur’d me my Lord  
was my intire Friend, and would rejoice as  
much as he did at the News : At the same  
Time told me, my Lord had never been at  
rest ’till our late Conversation ; adding,  
that though he had his Faults, he could  
not bear to do an Injury, and not make  
proper Reparation. “ This, *said he*, I  
“ know is his Temper, which made me un-  
“ dertake the difficult Task of finding you ;  
“ which I had never done, had I not one  
“ Day saw you come out of the *Park*, and  
“ follow’d you to your Lodgings.”

Mr. *Beaumien* was no sooner gone, than  
my Uncle insisted upon our going with him  
to his House : “ Where, *said he*, I hope  
“ this Lady will favour us with an Ac-

“ count of her Adventures. They must  
 “ be surpizing ; for, if I remember *Jas-*  
 “ *per's* Story right, when he last saw you,  
 “ Fortune was not much your Friend.

“ O ! *said I*, I have a thousand Questi-  
 “ ons to ask ; as many Mysteries to clear  
 “ ———As how she found me by the Name  
 “ of *Buckler* ; and how—— O ! *Jasper*,  
 “ *said she, interrupting me*, the Whole is  
 “ clear to me, and my Story will explain it  
 “ all——But, *added she*, I have another  
 “ tender Care——my Child ! my Child !  
 “ ———if he lives, then I am blest in-  
 “ deed.——Where did you leave it ? *re-*  
 “ *ply'd I hastily* : When did you hear of it ?  
 “ ———Forbear, my dear *Jasper* ; I  
 “ doubt not but he is safe——for Hea-  
 “ ven sent me a Guardian-Angel for his  
 “ Protector——Such a Friend !——  
 “ But I will not relate my Tale by Halves ;  
 “ you shall hear the Whole, and adore high  
 “ Heaven for his Mercies.”

We attended my Uncle Home ; where  
 the good Man's Impatience would scarcely  
 let us sit down, before he desir'd *Polly* to  
 begin her History. She consented, and is  
 as follows.



## C H A P. XXI.

*Polly's Story.*

“ **W** H E N you, *Jasper*, had refus’d  
“ to grant me the Request my Love  
“ made, and my Condition requir’d, I ran  
“ into a mad Despair. Fear and Shame  
“ surrounded me, and Horror seem’d to  
“ wait on every Step I took——What  
“ could I do ? already my Shame was whis-  
“ per’d round the Neighbourhood. The  
“ Women had observ’d my growing Form;  
“ and the Men, whose Addresses I had re-  
“ jected, seem’d to rejoice at the Scandal  
“ that would too soon over-take me. Hav-  
“ ing no Friend to cherish, no Father, Mo-  
“ ther, or Relation to pity me, I resolv’d  
“ to fly from all the Consequences of my  
“ Guilt; in hopes Providence would either  
“ compassionate or punish my Crime, as its  
“ great Justice best should ordain.

“ Thus determin’d, I pack’d up a few  
“ Necessaries, and took what little Money I  
“ had, which consisted only of some Silver-  
“ pence, and other small Pieces that my Fa-  
“ ther, in his Fondness, had given me in  
“ my childish Days ; and which I had pre-  
“ serv’d, not for their own Value, but for  
“ the Love I bore to him that gave ’em.  
“ Thus equipt, I walk’d on for near ten  
“ Miles,

“ Miles, when I arriv’d in Sir *Gregory’s*  
“ Park. Here Nature began to fail, and I  
“ sunk down beneath my Fatigue and Bur-  
“ then.—The Torments of my Body  
“ were nothing to those that rack’d my  
“ Mind. The Man I lov’d, my dear  
“ *Jasper*, I could never hope to see again.  
“ The unweildly Condition I was in left  
“ me without the least Prospect of Com-  
“ fort, and I could only wish for Death to  
“ ease me of the Burthen.

“ While I was in these Reflections,  
“ Night came on, and I resolv’d to seek no  
“ other Shelter, but try to rest upon  
“ the Grass. Nature, quite harrass’d out,  
“ gave me the Relief I wanted. I fell into  
“ a profound Sleep. About Four in the  
“ Morning, I was wak’d; and, looking  
“ round, saw five or six Men arm’d with  
“ Guns, who immediately laid hold on me  
“ by Violence, swearing that Sir *Gregory*  
“ should examine me immediately. I ask’d  
“ what Offence I had committed, to de-  
“ serve such rough Treatment. They re-  
“ ply’d, they knew me well. At those  
“ Words I started; for I did not doubt but  
“ these were Men sent by my Father, to  
“ prevent my Flight. One of the Fellows,  
“ taking my Fears for Marks of Guilt,  
“ cry’d out, *I told you we were right; she*  
“ *belongs to ’em*—I fell upon my Knees, and  
“ begg’d

“ begg’d to know what they intended  
“ to do with me. *Do with you !* says one  
“ of the roughest ; *carry you before my Ma-*  
“ *ster, make you discover your Accomplices,*  
“ *that have stole so many of his Deer.* I  
“ pleaded my Innocence with all the Pro-  
“ testations, I could think of, but all in  
“ vain. They forc’d me into the House,  
“ and secur’d me in the Hall, while a Mes-  
“ senger was sent to Sir Gregory, to bring  
“ him to examine me.

“ Before the Magistrate appear’d, a  
“ young Gentleman came down Stairs ;  
“ and, after looking wishfully at me, said,  
“ with the utmost good Nature, *Child, you*  
“ *are sadly frighten’d ; what have you done ?*  
“ I could not answer him, but with Tears ;  
“ at which he turn’d to the Servants, and  
“ ask’d them the same Question. They  
“ immediately laid open my Offence ;  
“ That I belong’d to a Gang of Rogues,  
“ who had frequently robb’d the Park ;  
“ and they did not doubt, but I was now  
“ come with that Intent. *Fye,* reply’d this  
“ Youth, *you must be mistaken ; she does not*  
“ *look like one that kept such Company.* This  
“ Gentleman’s good Nature gave me  
“ Courage. I got up ; and, in the most  
“ solemn Manner, declar’d, I had no ill  
“ Design : That I was a poor unhappy  
“ Woman, and was on my Way to Lon-  
“ don ; but, being overtaken by the Night,  
“ destitute

“ destitute of Friends or Means, and fatigued with my Journey, was oblig’d to take up my Rest in the Park ; with no Design, but that of recovering my Strength, in order to pursue my Journey in the Morning.

“ While I was pleading to this Youth, I observ’d his Eyes spoke all the Inclinations of his Heart ; for you (said *Polly*, look fondly at me) had taught me that dumb Language. In short, this Gentleman took me aside ; and, in my Ear, told me, That though *Sir Gregory* might be severe, and treat me roughly, not to be frighten’d ; for he would stand my Friend, and get me acquitted with Honour. While he was whispering this, he took an Opportunity of kissing my Neck ; which convinc’d me, I had read his Eyes aright.

“ I blush’d, bow’d, thank’d his Goodness, and retir’d to the Place my Guards had order’d me. His generous Offer, and his amorous Touch, had thrown upon my Face some Blushes, and I found it was observ’d ; for I heard one of the Servants say to his Fellow, *The ’Squire is smitten ; he brings her off, two to one.*

“ I did not wait much longer, before the Knight appear’d ; and, as he came down Stairs, he roar’d out, *Where is this infamous Creature ? I’ll make her an Example.*

“ *ple.* He came and seated himself in a  
“ great Chair, and I was conducted towards  
“ him, guarded like a common Thief.—  
“ The first Questions he ask’d me were,  
“ *What’s your Name?—Where do you in-*  
“ *habit?—What Parish do you belong to?*  
“ ———Every one of which was quite im-  
“ proper for me, in my present Circum-  
“ stances, to answer; for, had I told him  
“ whose Daughter I was, a Messenger  
“ would immediately have been dispatch’d  
“ to my Father, to know if my Assertion  
“ was true, and publish’d all my Shame at  
“ once.

“ He immediately examin’d his Ser-  
“ vants, and was so irritated at the fre-  
“ quent Robberies committed in his Park,  
“ that he seem’d resolv’d to punish some-  
“ body; so took Surmises for Proofs, and  
“ Appearances for Facts. By this Means  
“ I was soon convicted, and in a fair Way  
“ of being committed to Jail, had not my  
“ good Friend, Mr. *Buckler* (for that was  
“ his Name, as I learnt afterwards) stept  
“ in and pleaded in my Behalf. He begg’d  
“ the Knight to look at me, and then con-  
“ sider whether it was possible one so soft and  
“ gentle could be concern’d with a rough  
“ Gang of Robbers: Adding, That if  
“ he could not move him to a favourable  
“ Opinion of me, he would bail me, and  
“ prove my Innocence in a publick Court.”

Buckler!

Buckler ! said I, starting, *was that the Gentleman's Name ? and have you held any Correspondence with him since that Time ?* Yes, reply'd Polly, *or you would think me very ungrateful, when you hear how much he was my Friend. But the last Letter I sent him, he never answer'd ; so that I fear it came not to his Hands : And if it miscarry'd, it was partly owing to my own Carelessness ; for I lost the Direction to him, and was forc'd to trust to Chance to find him out, some where about St. James's. I took no farther Notice of this Incident at present to Polly, but begg'd her to go on with her Story.*

“ Mr. *Buckler's* good Nature (continu'd  
 “ *Polly*) had such Effect upon the Knight,  
 “ that he presently relented, and discharg'd  
 “ me ; abusing his Servants, at the same  
 “ Time, for taking me into Custody. My  
 “ Heart danc'd at my Enlargement ; and,  
 “ after thanking the Knight, and the  
 “ young Gentleman that had befriended  
 “ me, prepar'd to pursue my Journey :  
 “ But Mr. *Buckler* would not suffer me to  
 “ stir, till I had taken some Refreshment ;  
 “ which he had no sooner order'd, than I  
 “ was conducted into the Steward's Room,  
 “ where several cold Things were set out,  
 “ for me to please myself. Mr. *Buckler* sat  
 “ down by me, and began to explain him-  
 “ self——prais'd my Beauty, my Inno-  
 “ cence, and a Thousand other Commen-  
 “ dations,



“ dations, far beyond my Deserts——of-  
“ fer’d to lodge me in private, and provide  
“ for me. I thank’d him, but declar’d I  
“ could by no means accept of his Offer ;  
“ telling him, in Excuse, that I had some  
“ Relations a few Miles off, where I should  
“ rest some Days. Mr. *Buckler* seem’d  
“ greatly disappointed at my Resolution,  
“ but forbore to press me at that Time any  
“ further.

“ I took my Leave of him in the most  
“ grateful Manner. He kiss’d me, and  
“ put two Guineas in my Hand, and so we  
“ parted.—— I was now once more at  
“ Liberty to think. *Jasper* took up all my  
“ Soul, and engross’d every Thought.——  
“ With these Reflection I walk’d, as near as  
“ I could judge, about three Miles ; when,  
“ looking behind me, I saw a Chaise and  
“ Pair coming a great Pace after me. I  
“ was not at all alarm’d at it, since I only  
“ look’d upon it as some Travellers. But  
“ how was I amaz’d, when it came near  
“ me, so see Mr. *Buckler* in it ! I had not  
“ Time to think, before he stopp’d ; and,  
“ jumping out, said, *My dear Creature, I*  
“ *cannot let you go thro’ so much Fatigue—*  
“ *I must, and will relieve you——I have*  
“ *brought this Carriage on purpose, and in-*  
“ *sist upon it, that you suffer me to conduct*  
“ *you to the Place you are bound for.*

“ I

“ I refus’d with all the Arguments I  
“ could muster up, and he persisted with  
“ the Resolution of a determin’d Lover ;  
“ and at length, upon his Knees declar’d,  
“ and call’d Heaven to Witness for him,  
“ That he had no bad Design ; own’d  
“ he was struck with my Beauty, but  
“ would never expect a Pleasure from it,  
“ without my own free Consent ; that the  
“ Protection he now insisted upon giving,  
“ was only born of good Nature and Cha-  
“ rity to the Distress’d : In short, he made  
“ so many Protections, and utter’d ’em  
“ with a warm Honesty and Virtue, that I  
“ trusted myself in his Hands, and we  
“ drove some Miles before we stopp’d to  
“ dine.

“ Here Mr. *Buckler* began to be particu-  
“ lar in his Enquiries after my Name, Fa-  
“ mily and present Situation in Life.—  
“ I begg’d he would not desire me to ex-  
“ plain myself farther in these Points ; on-  
“ ly assur’d him, my Parents were ho-  
“ nest People, and myself clear of all  
“ Crimes but one, that a too unguarded and  
“ unfurmoutable Passion had drawn me  
“ into ; and that the dear Author of my  
“ Ruin had refus’d me the honourable A-  
“ mends I expected from his Love, and  
“ had brought me to the unhappy State he  
“ then saw me in.”

When

When *Polly* told this Part, a Blush overspread my Face, and I could not meet her Eyes for Shame——But my Readers may remember, it was not for want of Honour or Inclination, that I refus'd to marry *Polly*; but an implicit Duty to my Father, and Fear of his Resentment, deterr'd me.

*Polly* perceiv'd my Confusion, and said, Nay, Jasper, *don't think I ever doubted your Love, tho' it has been fatal to me.*

“ The gentle *Buckler* heard my Tale  
“ with all the Marks of sympathizing Sor-  
“ row; and, when I had done, catch'd me  
“ by the Hand, and vow'd to assist me with  
“ all Necessaries 'till I was eas'd of my  
“ present Burthen, and conduct me to  
“ what Part of the World I pleas'd, with-  
“ out any other Return, on my Part,  
“ than what a Woman with Modesty might  
“ grant, and Gratitude should dictate.

“ We arriv'd in *London*, and Mr. *Buck-*  
“ *ler* kept his Word in every Particular.  
“ He took me to a Lodging at a Silver-  
“ smith's in the City, who was much ob-  
“ lig'd to him, and willing to acknow-  
“ ledge the Favours he had receiv'd; at  
“ least his Behaviour to me, testified his un-  
“ common Regard for Mr. *Buckler*. He  
“ provided me a genteel Apartment, a Ser-  
“ vant to wait on me, and every thing I  
“ desir'd was immediately made ready.

“ Mr.

“ Mr. *Buckler* came every Day to visit  
“ me; but, by his Behaviour, his Atten-  
“ dance seem’d rather the Consequence of  
“ his Care, than his Love: For tho’ he  
“ was diligent in his Enquiries after my  
“ Health, whether I lik’d my Situation,  
“ and the like, he never made one amorous  
“ Advance, but approach’d me with all  
“ the Tenderness and chaste Affection a  
“ Brother could shew to a belov’d Sister.

“ Not to prolong my Tale too much, I  
“ was deliver’d of a Boy, and every Thing  
“ properly ordered by Mr. *Buckler*. He  
“ was cristen’d *Jasper*, after your Name,  
“ my Love”——Here she seiz’d my Hand;  
and, looking at me for some Time, burst  
out into Tears, and cry’d, “ O! grant  
“ me, Heaven, since I have found the Fa-  
“ ther, that I may meet my Child too, and  
“ I have no farther Boon to ask.

“ When my Time of Confinement was  
“ expir’d, Mr. *Buckler* lent me his Equi-  
“ page, and I every Day took the Air;  
“ which, in a few Weeks, brought me to  
“ a better State of Health than I had  
“ known for some Months before I left my  
“ Father’s. My Friend still continu’d  
“ his Goodness, and never propos’d any  
“ Alteration in my Situation; but as I had  
“ no Prospect of ever returning, or de-  
“ serving the Favours he had done me, I

“ was

“ was willing to undertake some Scheme to  
“ ease him of the Expence he was now at  
“ upon my Account. I thought of many,  
“ but could not find any so likely to suc-  
“ ceed, as going to the *Indies*; for though  
“ not vain, I was not insensible that I  
“ had Charms enough to attract, where  
“ Women are not so Plenty as in *Eng-*  
“ *land*.

“ I communicated my Design to my  
“ Benefactor. At first he was surprized  
“ at my proposing so desperate an Under-  
“ taking; but, when I had given him all  
“ my Reasons, he seemed to acquiesce,  
“ and applauded my Scheme: Moreover  
“ told me, if I had no particular Place to  
“ go to, he would advise me to *Jamaica* ;  
“ and his Reason was, That he had there  
“ several worthy Friends, who would,  
“ upon his Recommendation, receive me  
“ kindly ; and, upon any Dislike, either  
“ of the Place or Company, provide me  
“ a proper Passage back to *England*: Add-  
“ ing, with his usual good Nature, *where*  
“ *you will find the same Friend, if Provi-*  
“ *dence permit, you leave behind you.*

“ The Scheme being fixt, Mr. Buckler  
“ gave me many Recommendations from  
“ himself, and several others from his  
“ Friends; then furnished me, not only  
“ with Necessaries for my Voyage, but  
“ even presented me with Cloaths and Or-  
“ naments

“ naments, fit to appear in the best of  
“ Company.

“ Every Thing being packed up, he  
“ found out a Ship that was to convey  
“ me, the Captain of which was his particular Friend. He attended me to it;  
“ and, after leaving the utmost Cautions  
“ for my Treatment with the Captain, he  
“ embraced me, and, in a Whisper, begged I would then tell him my Name;  
“ which I desired, as an added Favour,  
“ he would not insist on. He said no  
“ more; only desired when I wrote to  
“ him, which he insisted I should do every  
“ Opportunity, that I should sign myself  
“ *Indiana*. I promised; he embraced me  
“ again, blessed me, and so we parted.

“ The Captian shewed his Regard for  
“ Mr. *Buckler*, by the particular Care he  
“ took of me; for indeed he spared no  
“ Expence or Trouble, to make the Voyage agreeable. The Weather too was  
“ favourable; and, in about two Months  
“ Time, we arrived in good Health and  
“ Spirits at *Jamaica*.

“ We were no sooner on Shore, than  
“ the Captain went with me to Mr. *Dale*,  
“ to whom I delivered the Letter Mr.  
“ *Buckler* had given me; which, when he  
“ had read, he embraced me very tenderly,  
“ and told me Mr. *Buckler*'s Respect for  
“ me, which he strongly express'd in the  
“ Letter



“ Letter, was sufficient to recommend me  
“ to his Protection. I was conducted into  
“ a private Apartment, my Cloaths sent  
“ for, and I new dress’d myself before  
“ Dinner. Mr. *Dale* then introduced me  
“ to his Wife and Children, who join’d  
“ with him in their Professions of Friend-  
“ ship.

“ Every Thing, by Mr. *Dale*’s good  
“ Nature, was provided for me in the most  
“ genteel Manner; and I had the good  
“ Fortune to find myself respected by eve-  
“ ry Visitant, of both Sexes, that came to  
“ the House: And they were very nu-  
“ merous, for Mrs. *Dale* was a gay Wo-  
“ man, and a great Encourager of all the  
“ polite Diversions.

“ Among this Company, I soon found  
“ myself surrounded by young Gentle-  
“ men, whose Assiduities to oblige, plain-  
“ ly declared that Love had inspir’d their  
“ Diligence. I gave civil Answers to all;  
“ but was cautious, as I had no Design to  
“ engage with any, not to be too particu-  
“ lar: For I had felt too many Miseries  
“ from Love, and was determin’d never  
“ to yield to it again—Nor was my Heart  
“ my own, for that I had left behind me, in  
“ the Possession of my dear *Jasper*.

“ When I had been in this Situation for  
“ about three Months, Mr. *Dale* came to  
“ me one Morning into my Chamber;  
and,

“ and, after apologizing for his Intrusion,  
“ sat down, and told me he had some  
“ private Business with me. I begg’d he  
“ would make no Ceremony, but plainly  
“ open the Matter.

“ My dear Ward, *said he, (for so he al-*  
“ *ways called me)* Mr. Buckler desired me,  
“ in his Letter, to take great Care of you,  
“ and I hope you are not dissatisfied with  
“ your Entertainment: But, I believe,  
“ *continued he,* Mr. Buckler expects I  
“ should do something more for you, than  
“ just supplying you with Necessaries in  
“ my Family; and I can now exceed even  
“ his Wishes, and make you happy for  
“ ever. *I thank’d him for his Bounty, and*  
“ *begg’d to know how I might deserve such*  
“ *Indulgence.*—Why, *said he,* here is a  
“ Gentleman of Thirty Thousand Pounds  
“ Fortune, but his Wealth is the least  
“ Part of his Merit. He has Virtues that  
“ out-balance all the Riches in the World;  
“ and he is taken with your Beauty and  
“ Conversation, and has desired me to  
“ make you an Offer of his Heart and For-  
“ tune.

“ *I immediately answer’d him, with my*  
“ *usual Indifference; thank’d him for his*  
“ *Care, but declin’d his Offer: Adding,*  
“ That I had rather get some Employ-  
“ ment, in my present State, that would  
“ produced me a moderate Livelihood,  
“ than

" than advance myself by Marriage, to the  
 " first Rank of Greatness.

" He seem'd dissatisfied with my An-  
 " swer, and us'd many Arguments to  
 " bring me to give a more favourable  
 " one; but, finding me still obstinate, he  
 " forbore and left me; saying, He would  
 " not have me consent to any Thing, a-  
 " gainst my Inclinations.

" Notwithstanding Mr. Dale's Ease, in  
 " agreeing with my Inclinations, I found  
 " he was very strenuous to have the Match  
 " concluded: For next Day his Lady came;  
 " and urg'd me to accept of it with all the  
 " artful Perswasions she was Mistress of;  
 " and, finding me still averse to her Propo-  
 " sal, in the Afternoon introduc'd the Gentle-  
 " man himself, who did not want Rhetorick  
 " in Affairs of Love. Still I kept my Re-  
 " solution, to the great Mortification of  
 " my Lover: Nevertheless, he did not give  
 " over the Pursuit; for the next Morning  
 " all the Ladies who were frequent Visi-  
 " tants at Mr. Dale's, came in a formal  
 " Manner to sollicite for my Lover. In  
 " short, so much was made of it, so many  
 " Arguments us'd, and such Art employ'd,  
 " that I was forc'd to yield to their En-  
 " treaties.

" This happen'd of a Sunday; that Day  
 " Fortnight was fixt for the Ceremony,  
 " and all the pompous Preparations made  
 " that Art could invent or Wealth produce.

“ My intended Husband every Hour gave  
 “ fresh Proofs of his Affection, and made  
 “ me Presents, I thought much above the  
 “ Ability of an Islander.

“ But how vain is Expectation of Happiness in this World! for, on the *Wednesday* before the Nuptial Day, Mr. *Emmely*, my Lover, was seiz'd with a violent Fever, and on the *Friday* dy'd; so that  
 “ I was now left again in my single State.  
 “ Imagine how I was surpriz'd, when his Affairs came to be look'd into, to hear  
 “ he had left me sole Heiress to his whole  
 “ Fortune, which was Thirty Thousand  
 “ Pounds; besides several Lands, Houses,  
 “ and Furniture of infinite Value.

“ I was no sooner put in Possession of  
 “ this great Fortune, which by the Care  
 “ of Mr. *Dale*, was soon done, than I  
 “ wish'd to return to *England*. He, far  
 “ from blaming my Desire, encourag'd it;  
 “ and, in about four Months I set out for  
 “ *England*, full of the Hope of seeing my  
 “ dear Child, and my Friend Mr. *Buckler*;  
 “ whose Life I was afraid was ended: For  
 “ when I first consented to this Match, I  
 “ wrote him Word; and sent a small Present  
 “ of that Country's Produce, but never  
 “ receiv'd any Answer.”

Here I rose up, and embracing *Polly*,  
 told her that Letter, with the Present, came

to me. *That, said Polly, I did imagine, because the same Person that was entrusted with that Letter, shew'd me to the House where he left it, and there, to my great Astonishment, I heard Mr. Buckler was in the Fleet, which was the Reason I came thither——but little thought to meet my dear Jasper there.*

*Polly having ended her Story, I briefly related mine.——We had now nothing to do, but to express our mutual Affections for each other; and, to prove 'em sincere, we only wanted to unite 'em in that sacred Band, our hard Fortune had formerly hinder'd us from compleating. This we agreed to, and fix the next Day for the Performance. Polly would fain have deferr'd it 'till she had seen her Child, but I begg'd she would not insist on it; since she saw, by Mr. Emfley's Death, how dangerous it was to delay the Transports of a Lover.*

*While we were in the Midst of these Endearments, a Note came from Mr. Buckler, her Friend, that compleated her Happiness. It contain'd as follows:*

*Dear INDIANA,*

**I** *Have just seen the Captain, who inform'd me of your Arrival. I am glad you are in Health; and your dear Boy, my Charge, is the same. Earnest Business prevents my seeing*

*seeing you To-day, but To-morrow Morning I will visit you, and give up my Trust to your Arms.*

*From your Friend,*

J. BUCKLER.

Mr. *Buckler* kept his Word, and brought my Child by nine o'Clock in the Morning. — It would be too tedious to describe the Expressions of Love, Gratitude, and Friendship, that flow'd from every Mouth. We told Mr. *Buckler*, in Part, our Story, and he was highly rejoic'd that he had been so principal an Instrument in our Happiness. — He went with us to Church, and insisted upon giving *Polly* away, which he did with great good Nature.

When the Ceremony was over, we return'd with my Uncle; who propos'd, that we should stay in Town a Month, and then pay a Visit to my Father: Saying, *Perhaps he may receive you like his Children, now you don't want his Assistance.*

F I N I S